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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

M. P. RYAN, Business Manager.

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The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet, containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the Public.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1874. NO. 110.

FIRST EDITION

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

No Vote Come to on the Election Bill.

Detention of Senators on the Railway.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate met at seven o'clock.

McClure's Election bill, as amended by Mr. White, came up on a third reading, and amendments were offered by Messrs. McClure, Wallace and Davis. Considerable discussion was had on the various amendments, when without coming to a vote, the Senate adjourned.

The Cincinnati express East, upon which came Russel Errett, chief clerk of the Senate, and nearly all the Allegheny county delegation, did not arrive here until after the Senate adjourned, having been detained on the Western division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

[The following summary of Saturday's business in the House of Representatives was delayed on its way from the State Capital. It should have reached us in time for publication on Monday.—ED. COM.]

Mr. Vogdes introduced a bill authorizing cities and boroughs to regulate the uses of streets and sidewalks within their corporate limits. Affirmed.

Mr. Webb introduced a resolution authorizing the clerk to procure two thousand maps of the several counties required to be divided in the formation of legislative districts, containing the several legislative districts, and population of the same; also, a like number of the city of Philadelphia, with its election divisions and the population of the same. Adopted.

Sale of Spirituous Liquors.

A petition was offered by Mr. Myers of citizens of Bradford county for a law to make the seller of spirituous liquors personally liable for damages from such sale.

Mr. Amerman offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Commonwealth to furnish the House the names of the newspapers that published the new Constitution by his direction, together with the amounts severally agreed upon for publication. Laid over.

By Mr. Brockway (Judiciary General), a bill relative to vacancies in the offices of Prothonotary, Register and Recorder.

By Mr. Davis, regulating the fees of Coroners and Justices of the Peace acting as such.

Mr. Mitchell reported from the Judiciary General Committee a petition contesting the election of Jesse Amerman, stating that it was the opinion of the committee that the act of July 2, 1839, regulating contested elections is in conflict with the present Constitution, and therefore, not in force. The committee desired it understood that this was not a final determination of the matter, but that the committee would make a further report.

New bills were introduced as follows:

By Mr. McCreary, authorizing the courts to confirm sales and conveyance of real estate in a number of cases specified. Referred.

By Mr. McCullough, a bill directing that hereafter no implication of intendment from limitation over an indefinite issue contained in a lost will or devise, prior to April 27, 1855, shall operate to defeat a fee simple against the real purpose and intention of the testator.

By Mr. Newmyer, for the better protection of persons and of property from the dangers of petroleum and its products.

Special Legislation.

House bill No. 1, providing for the advertising of notices of special legislation, was on motion of Mr. Brockway, taken up on a third reading.

Mr. Webb moved to amend the bill, requiring the advertisement to be inserted in only one paper in the county. Not a majority of the quorum voting for the amendment, it was declared negatived. The bill passed finally—Yeas, 67; nays, 3.

The following is the bill as passed:

An Act Regulating the applications for local and special legislation.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, that no local or special bill, either to repeal or enact a law, shall be passed by the Legislature, unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall be published in the locality where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated, which notice shall state specifically the title and objects of the bill, and shall be published by not less than four insertions in at least two daily or weekly newspapers of different politics, printed in the county, or in each of the several counties where such matter or thing to be affected may be situated; the first insertion to be at least thirty days prior to the introduction of such bill into the General Assembly, and be signed by at least one of the parties applying therefor: *provided*, that the publication in one newspaper shall be deemed sufficient where but one is published in the county or counties aforesaid.

SEC. 2. The evidence of the publication aforesaid shall be by attaching to the bill a copy or copies, as the case may be, of said notice, verified by the affidavit of the owner, publisher, editor or foreman of each of the several newspapers in which said notice is, by this act, required to be published, of due compliance with the preceding section.

SEC. 3. That when such local or special bill shall affect any matter or thing situated in any city or borough, said publication shall be in two of the newspapers published in said city or borough, of different politics, if so many there be; and if there be but one, a publication in that one shall be deemed sufficient; if there be no newspaper published in said city or borough, then by publication in the newspaper or newspapers of the county in which said city or borough is located, as provided in the first section of this act.

A number of members were relieved from serving on standing committees, when the House adjourned until two o'clock next Wednesday afternoon.

FORT WAYNE.

Criminal Trial Continued—A Ruffianly Attack.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 20, 1874.

The case of the State vs. Ling, charged with receiving stolen property belonging to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was brought before the Criminal Court to-day, but was continued on account of important witnesses being absent.

A party of ruffians attacked a man named Emil Renof late last night, seriously injuring him. The police succeeded in arresting two of the miscreants.

IRONTON.

Child Burned—Escape of Prisoners from Jail—Furnace to Start Work.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

IRONTON, O., January 20, 1874.

A four year old daughter of Mr. Cornelius, of this city, had her clothes catch fire on Sunday, and was so severely burned that she died last night.

This evening as the deputy sheriff was taking the suppers into the prisoners in the jail, two of them managed to get by him and escaped.

Belfont Furnace will go in blast next week.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Carleton, late of the Methodist Book Concern, has been elected City Treasurer of Elizabeth, N. J.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Charles W. Robbins as Postmaster at Niles, Ohio.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of citizens was held in postoffice square, Toledo, yesterday afternoon, in honor of the nomination of Hon. M. R. Waite to the Chief Justiceship. A parade of the military and firemen took place, a salute of one hundred guns was fired and appropriate addresses delivered.

In a suit at Memphis, R. A. Patton vs. D. C. & H. M. Lowenstine, for searching his house for stolen goods, frightening his wife and forcibly carrying off some of her apparel, a jury to-day returned a verdict for $6,000 damages.

The sudden death is announced of the celebrated Siamese Twins, Chang and Eng, on Saturday morning, the 17th inst., at their residence at Mount Very, Surrey county, North Carolina.

C. R. Gardiner, proprietor of the Academy of Music, this afternoon distributed 1,500 pounds of cooked and pressed corn-beef to the poor of Chicago.

The steamship Andes has arrived at New York from Cardiff.

A State branch of the National Prison Reform Association was formed in Louisville last night.

James F. Shunk, son of the late ex-Governor Francis R. Shunk, and son-in-law of Judge Jeremiah S. Black, died at the Bolton House, Harrisburg, last night, of apoplexy.

Late on Monday night, in Chicago, a man named Ferguson, in the employ of A. Booth & Co., and whose family reside in Baltimore, was knocked down by three roughs and so injured that he died yesterday. The murderer, who were known, were arrested and jailed.

New Patent.

The Great White Rives Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 20, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. SHERMAN presented the credential of A. G. Thurman, re-elected Senator from Ohio for six years from March 4, 1875. Laid on the table.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a message from the President, inclosing a report of the Secretary of the Interior in response to a resolution of the 8th inst. in regard to the unauthorized occupation of the Indian Territory by bodies of men in violation of treaty stipulations. Laid on the table.

Petitions were presented from the National Board of Trade for a revision of the Internal Revenue laws; indorsing the petition of the New York Chamber of Commerce for the prevention of collisions at sea; protesting against any increase in the volume of currency; asking that the National Banking act be amended and that the volume of fractional currency be reduced.

Mr. OGLESBY presented a petition of the National Board of Trade in regard to cheap transportation, and made a speech in favor of the immediate attention of Congress to the subject, stating that in his opinion the question was of more importance than that of finance.

Mr. BOGY spoke in favor of national legislation to open natural water routes from the West to the sea. The petition was referred to the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard.

Mr. MORTON asked that the resolution for the admission of Mr. Pinchback, as Senator from Louisiana be taken up, as he desired to have the subject recommitted to the committee to investigate as to the personal conduct of Mr. Pinchback in connection with the election.

Mr. McCREERY said he desired to speak on the subject on Monday, being entitled to the floor.

Mr MORTON gave notice that he would make a motion after the speech of the gentleman.

The consideration of the finance resolution was then resumed, and the remarks of Mr. Brownlow read by the Clerk.

Mr. BROWNLOW thought an immediate return to specie payment would be destructive to the business of the country. Our present financial system was very good, but capable of some amendment, one of the principal defections being the unequal distribution of currency. The South and West wanted more, and measures should be taken to relieve these sections.

Mr. GORDON opposed the speedy return to specie payment, but did not desire to be understood as opposing it when consistent with the interests of the producing classes and the country. To give the country more currency was to his mind the shortest, surest and easiest method of relief. If Congress would announce that it intended to give more money to the people, and give it flexibility, that very hour would bring relief to the country, and bring out millions of greenbacks now hoarded up. He spoke of the wants of his section, and said he believed there was more prosperity there when it took sixty dollars in Confederate money to buy one bushel of corn in the days of the war. Cheap money was what we wanted, and he hoped the debt-burdened South and West would heed the cry. The South is poorer to-day than at the close of the day Lee surrendered at Appomatax Court House. He hoped the day would come when we would issue money not founded on gold, but on the faith of the government and receivable for all dues alike.

Mr. CHANDLER agreed with other gentlemen that there was not enough money, but he wanted better money. He thought the only plan was for the government to say it would resume specie payment on the 1st of January, 1876, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow one hundred millions of dollars in gold at that time, stop the sale of gold now, and by the 1st of January we would have two hundred millions in gold to begin the redemption of our legal tenders. He opposed any increase in the volume of currency, even the issue of the forty-four million reserve.

The resolution was laid aside informally and the Post Route bill taken up.

Mr. PRATT offered an amendment declaring all the bridges heretofore erected or hereafter to be erected across navigable rivers and all public railroads to be post routes.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, offered an amendment that hereafter no service should be ordered on post routes until an examination as to the necessity there for be made by a special agent to be appointed by the Postmaster General.

Mr. PRATT explained that the object of his amendment was to leave the matter in the hands of the department to establish these post routes, and do away with the necessity of a postal route bill every year.

Mr. RAMSEY opposed the amendment, as it was to legalize every bridge over the Missouri and other rivers, and prevent Congress ordering their removal if it be found that they obstructed navigation.

Pending discussion, the bill was laid aside and the finance resolutions again taken up, upon which Mr. Merrimon was entitled to the floor, but upon commencing he gave way to a motion for adjournment, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. McCREARY, from the Committee on Railroads and Canals, reported a bill to regulate commerce by railroads among several States. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

Mr. MAYNARD, from the Committee on Rules, reported a new rule providing that all motions to suspend the rules, except to go into Committee of the Whole, shall, before being submitted to the House, be seconded by a majority, as in the case of the previous question.

The proposition gave rise to considerable discussion, the new rule being advocated by some as a means of preventing the House from being forced to vote by yeas and nays on bunkombe resolutions, and being opposed by others as an infringement on the constitutional rights of the minority, which would thus be cut off from the power to have a vote taken on propositions emanating from it. After an hour's discussion Mr. Maynard moved the previous question, but the House refused to second it and the discussion was resumed.

Mr. WOOD, of Illinois, moved to lay the proposed rule on the table. Negatived—yeas 115, nays 127.

After a variety of yeas and nay votes, the rule was adopted by a vote of 124 to 101. The House then, at 5:10 P. M., adjourned.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

Ohio.

COLUMBUS, January 20.—In the Senate this morning, the following bills were introduced:

To provide for the payment of the Morgan raid claims. This bill proposes to appropriate $580,827 to pay the claims growing out of John Morgan's raid into Ohio.

To authorize county treasurers to deposit public moneys.

To authorize incorporated manufacturing companies to capitalize their debts and issue preferred stock.

To provide for second trials before the Supreme Court.

Mississippi.

MEMPHIS, January 20.—A special to the *Avalanche*, from Jackson, Miss., says the Legislature assembled at noon to-day. J. D. Shodd, colored, of Warren, was elected Speaker of the House; H. W. Warren was elected Clerk, and George A. Brown Sergeant-at-Arms. The Senate elected W. O. White to be Secretary, and adjourned. There are at least a dozen applicants for every subordinate position and numerous aspirants to fill Ames's unexpired term as Senator.

FIRE RECORD.

Store and Residence Burned.

NEW ORLEANS, January 20.—Mrs. Louisa Koebel's furniture store and residence, No. 682 Magazine street, was burned to-day. Loss $10,000; insured in the Merchants' Mutual and Factors and Traders' for $8,500.

Railway Bridge Burned.

PORTLAND, Me., January 20.—The Eastern Railroad bridge at Biddeford, was destroyed by fire this afternoon. Loss $70,000.

Knitting Mill Burned—Nine Lives Lost.

BENNINGTON, VT., January 20.—The knitting mill of H. E. Bradford was burned this afternoon, the fire being caused by a leakage of the gasoline pipe. The gas ignited from boiler fire, and exploding demolished the adjoining sewing room. Nine women at work there were instantly killed or burned to death in the fire which followed, and many others injured, some shockingly. The card and sorting rooms were saved. The loss is about $100,000; partly insured.

CASUALTIES.

Boiler Explosion.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., January 20, 1874.

The boiler connected with the steam printing press of the Washington *Reporter* burst to-day. Three young men were burned and scalded, but only one, whose name is Cool, was badly injured. He was terribly burned about the head and face.

Fall of a Tunnel Wall in St. Louis—Damaging a Sidewalk.

ST. LOUIS, January 20.—About one hundred and fifty feet of the northern wall of the tunnel on Washington avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets, directly in front of the new Lindell Hotel, caved in this morning, badly fracturing one of the tunnel arches, and carrying with it a considerable part of the sidewalk in front of the hotel. This wall was laid in a blue clay and quicksand foundation, which was the cause of the accident. The earth which had been laid on the top of the arches preparatory to relaying the street will be speedily moved, the arch and wall taken down and piles driven through the quicksand for the new foundation. There is no damage yet to the Lindell Hotel, but it is feared when the tunnel wall is removed, the foundation of that building will be greatly weakened. The loss to the tunnel company is not yet estimated, but will probably amount to $50,000. From four to six weeks will be required to repair the damage.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

A HEAVY GALE.

LONDON, January 20.—A heavy gale prevailed along the British coast yesterday.

THE RUMORED DISSENTION IN THE CABINET.

LONDON, January 20.—The report is contradicted that Secretary Lowe will retire from the Cabinet in consequence of a disagreement with Mr. Gladstone in relation to the appointment of the Sheriff of Lanarkshire.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

LONDON, January 21.—The *Daily Telegraph* says it is rumored that the king of the Ashantees has sent an embassy to Gen. Wolesley, suing for peace and offering an indemnity.

France.

A GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED TO M. THIERS.

PARIS, January 20.—Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, yesterday, on behalf of the French residents of Philadelphia, presented ex-President Thiers with a gold medal. In his speech Mr. Washburne alluded to the friendship of France for the United States during the revolution, and eulogized the French people who have taken up their residence in the United States. M. Thiers expressed his thanks to his countrymen in the United States for the manifestations and confidence in him, and declared that the Republic was the only government possible in France, and consequently the bond of friendship between the two nations would be made stronger.

THE ASSEMBLY.

VERSAILLES, January 20.—In the Assembly to-day the bill conferring on the government the power of nominating mayors finally passed by a majority of 43. The Duke de Cazes, urging the postponement of the interpellation on foreign affairs, submitted by an Ultramontane deputy, declared that apprehensions that the peace might be disturbed, which had recently manifested themselves, were unfounded. The government was solicitous for the welfare and spiritual independence of the Pope, but at the same time sincerely desired to maintain relations of harmony and friendship with Italy. The government would labor incessantly to prevent misunderstandings with any power, for peace was necessary to the prosperity of France. The Duke said he made the above statement with the full concurrence of President MacMahon. The motion to postpone the interpellation was carried.

Spain.

INVESTIGATION AT CARTAGENA.

MADRID, January 20.—The iron-clad Numancia has arrived at Cartagena. Admiral Topete, Minister of Marine, has gone to Cartagena with full power to investigate the circumstances of the intransigente insurrection.

International Postal Congress.

BERNE, January 20.—The Federal Council has appointed the 15th of October, 1874, as the day for the opening of the International Postal Congress.

Marine News.

LIVERPOOL, January 20.—The steamship Celtic, which left Liverpool on Thursday last, came in contact with some floating wreckage at night and lost all the blades of her propeller. She returned to Queenstown in tow of the steamship Gaelic. The cargo of the Celtic will be transferred to the Gaelic at that port and the passengers will leave on Friday for New York.

The steamships Weser and Oceanic, from New York, and Indiana, from Philadelphia, have arrived.

QUEENSTOWN, January 21.—The steamer City of Antwerp, from New York, has arrived.

European Markets.

LONDON, January 20.—Bank discount in open markets for three months, bills is 3 per cent., which is ⅛ per cent. below the Bank of England rate. Rate of discount with the bill brokers of Lombard and Threadneedle streets, for short loans, is 2½ per cent. Consols for money, 92¾@92⅞; for account, 92⅞@93; U. S. bonds of 1862, 104½; '67, 108; 10-40's, 105¾; new 5's, 102½; New York Central, 94⅝; Erie, 45¾; Erie preferred, 70¾. Tallow steady on spot and 30s 9d@31s; no afloat 29s. Linseed oil £29@28 3s.

FRANKFORT, January 20.—United States bonds of '62, 89½.

PARIS, January 20.—Rentes 58 francs 45 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, January 20.—Cotton easier; upland, 8⅝d; Orleans, 8⅝d; sales 10,000 bales; American, 6,200 bales; speculation and export, 1,000 bales; sales of upland nothing below good ordinary shipped December-January and January-February and 8 1-16th; nothing below low middling, deliverable February and March, 8⅜; sales of Orleans nothing below good ordinary, shipped January and February 8¼d. Breadstuffs quiet and steady except for corn, which is firmer at 34s 9d. Wheat 10s 10d@11s for average California white; 14s4½d@14s for club do; 12s 2d@12s 10d for red western spring. Bacon 39s 6d for long cut; middling, clear, 40s for short. Pork 80s. Receipts of wheat the past three days, 41,000 quarters, including 22,000 from the state of Illinois. Yarns and fabrics at Manchester dull with a downward tendency.

ANTWERP, January 20.—Petroleum, 30¾ francs.

THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

Opinions of the New York and Chicago Press on the Nomination of Mr. Waite.

NEW YORK, January 20.—All the papers this morning have more or less to say about the President's latest nomination for Chief Justice.

From the *Sun*: Mr. Waite is well spoken of by those who are acquainted with him, but the fact that he is not generally known to the country will render his nomination for Chief Justice less satisfactory than it might be otherwise.

From the *World*: If President Grant's third selection for Chief Justice had happened to be his first, the appointment of Mr. Waite would have been received with wonder by the country, and disappointment and regret by that portion of the bar who ever had any practice in the Supreme Court. We have, it says, no doubt that Waite possesses some very good negative qualities, but comes to the conclusion that the eight Associate Justices can decide every case as ably as they have done with him, and the Senate would serve the country by keeping the Chief Justiceship vacant until we get a President who appreciates the positive qualifications requisite for that great station.

From the *Herald*: No other reason is apparent for the selection of Waite, save that Grant is determined to nominate a man that he considers best, and not a man the country considers best.

From the *Tribune*: Of course, Mr. Waite is not the best man who could be named for the place. But there is no good reason why he should not be promptly confirmed, to that great mass of serious people who believe in the principles for which we went to war, and who regard it as the duty of the National Legislature to fortify and defend those principles by statute, and the duty of the Judiciary to take care that they receive no detriment through hostile constructions of the laws and the Constitution. The correct political antecedents of Mr. Waite will seem far more important than all the learning and brilliant abilities of General Cushing.

From the *Times*: The nomination of the Honorable Judge M. R. Waite, to the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is a thoroughly acceptable one, and will probably meet with little opposition from any quarter. He is a man of very high personal character, of recognized ability, and of quite sufficient standing in his profession to justify the belief that he will make a good Chief Justice. In nominating Mr. Waite, the President has shown an excellent discretion, with rather difficult duty in a conscientious manner, and without reference to party or private wishes of any clique in Washington or elsewhere.

CHICAGO, January 20.—The morning papers all have something to say on the nomination of Mr. Waite for Chief Justice.

The *Inter-Ocean* speaks of him as possessing a modest and retiring disposition, with rather conservative tendencies, but a close student, a ripe scholar and a model lawyer and looks for his confirmation without opposition.

The *Tribune* says: All that is said of Morrison R. Waite, the President's third nomination for Chief Justice, is, so far, to his credit. He comes of illustrious, judicial parentage, his father having been Chief Justice of Connecticut, and one of the most eminent jurists of New England. He is a graduate of the Yale College, and is fifty-eight years of age. His assiduous devotion to the practice of law has prevented him from achieving a cheap popularity, but placed him years ago at the head of the bar of North western Ohio. He has commanded respectful public attention in the last two years for his services at Geneva as counsel for the United States, and at Columbus, Ohio, as President of the Constitutional Convention, over which he was presiding, when he and the country were surprised by his nomination.

The *Times* denounces the nomination in severe terms and says: Verily the shades of Jay and Marshall and Taney and Chase may arise to protest against a profanation of their venerated seat by a man so utterly incapable of filling it acceptably.

CRIMES.

A Man Charged with Murdering His Child.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CIRCLEVILLE, O., January 20, 1874.

A. J. Pettit, living near Williamsport, in this county, was arrested on Sunday, charged with murdering his little boy, about six years old. He waived an examination and was committed to jail here to-day. It appears that about eighteen months ago the family moved West, but Pettit soon returned and stated that his wife had left him, but the neighbors doubted the statement and noticed his wife's clothing in his possession. They now suspect the wife also is murdered. The murdered boy disappeared about a year ago, in the night. The father accounted for it by saying an uncle had taken it to Virginia, but two other children say that when last seen the boy was crying, and the father went out and did not return till the other children went to sleep. Suspicious neighbors visited the farm of John Keys, from which Pettit had moved, and found an arm bone of a child, and after further search a portion of the skull and other bones in a scorched condition. When brought to face his crime he said the child was killed accidentally by a plank falling from a loft, and that he burned the body to save trouble and expense.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Nomination of Chief Justice.

Favorable Report Thereon by the Senate Committee.

Collectorship of Customs at Erie.

THE TELEGRAPH QUESTION.

Feeling Averse to Consolidation

Finances of the Country.

Estimates for Public Buildings.

Cut Down in the Appropriations.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 20, 1874.

Favorable Report of the Senate Committee on the Nomination for Chief Justice.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary held a session this morning for the purpose of considering the nomination of Mr. Waite to be Chief Justice. The nomination, as far as the committee were able to judge—for they practically knew little about his career—was satisfactory. They accordingly unanimously agreed to report to the Senate favorably at the Executive session this afternoon. The report was made in accordance with the above decision and the case was allowed to remain for future action. It is understood that there will be some objection raised in the Senate on the ground of previous obscurity, and an allegation that he was not altogether sound on the political question at the time of the election of Mr. Lincoln. There is no reason to believe, however, from present indications, that there will be opposition sufficient to occasion a serious delay when the nomination comes up for action. Both the Senators from Ohio, Democrat—speak in the highest terms of his character and abilities. Mr. Waite's chief prominence before the people was his connection with the Geneva tribunal, in the last international controversy between the United States and Great Britain, under the treaty of Washington. Sir Staundell Palmer, one of the English representatives, in a letter to Secretary Fish commenting upon the labors and results of the arbitration, mentions Mr. Waite very favorably.

Collector of Customs at Erie.

A large number of letters have been received here protesting against the confirmation of Mr. Willard to the Collector of Customs at Erie. The objections against Willard are that he is a comparative stranger in Erie; that if a change is to be made, there are citizens of influence and prominence in the community from among whom the choice should be made; that he is the editor of a newspaper of uncertain politics, and that he has been for some time negotiating the sale of the paper to a Republican law partner of Mr. Scofield, Congressman-at-large. The nomination is still in the Committee on Commerce, and has been acted upon. The nomination is also indorsed by Mr. Curtis, the member of Congress of the district, and by Mr. Scofield. It is claimed on behalf of Gunnison that he ought to be retained under the Civil Service rules, but it seems they do not suit in this instance.

The Postmastership of Mrs. Culbertson

to be Postmistress at New Brighton was confirmed by the Senate to-day.

Consolidation of Telegraph Lines.

The Senate Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads, at their meeting this morning, heard an argument from Mr. Orton against the views expressed by the Postmaster General and Mr. Hubbard in favor of the consolidation of all the telegraph lines under the authority and administration of the government. The line of argument on both sides is the same old story as had every session of Congress since this project has been agitated. Mr. Hubbard proposes to make it the same as the postal service. The truth of the matter is that a great deal of time is wasted on this subject, as the general feeling of the committee seems to be averse to any decisive step in the matter on the ground that the government is undertaking too much. They consider that the building and running of telegraphs belong to private corporations, except in the one way, when the safety of the State demands a rigid censorship. There is no likelihood that any conclusion either way will be reached this session. The theme would have died before this were it not for the personal exertions of the Postmaster General.

The Financial Question.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency to-day heard an argument from the Executive Committee of the National Board of Trade on the financial condition of the country. As a basis of the settlement of existing difficulties they recommend specie payments at the earliest practicable period consistent with the safety of the business community. The same committee will present a bill directing the issue of the forty-four millions reserve, and to prevent the Secretary from locking up large amounts in the Treasury. The legal tenders will be limited to four hundred millions. The present amount is three hundred and fifty-six millions.

Appropriations for Public Buildings.

The Supervising Architect of the Treasury stated before the House Committee on Appropriations, to-day, that his reduced estimates on public buildings were as low as they could possibly be placed. The reduction proposed by the committee is several millions less than the Architect's amount.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 20, 1874.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE CASE OF GENERAL HOWARD.

The House Military Committee agreed to report a resolution recommending and requesting the President to appoint a board of five officers to investigate the affairs of General Howard, in connection with the allegations against him, embodied in recent letters of the Secretary.

FRAUDULENT UNDERVALUATION OF IMPORTS.

The Senate Finance Committee this morning agreed to report favorably on Mr. Fenton's bill, providing that in cases of fraudulent undervaluation of imports the confiscation penalty shall apply only to the particular item or items undervalued and not to the whole invoice.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads will soon report a bill restoring the franking privilege to a limited extent. The same committee decided that the benefits of a free letter delivery by carriers should not extend to cities having less than twenty-five thousand inhabitants.

FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

It is understood that in a brief executive session held this afternoon the Judiciary Committee reported favorably on the nomination of Morrison R. Waite to be Chief Justice, and that it was laid over, under the rule, for one day.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

The report submitted by Mr. McCrary, Chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals upon House bill 1,210, presents amendments thereto in the nature of a substitute, and recommends its passage. The bill asserts the right and duty of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce as carried on by railroads, and prescribes as one of the regulations hereof that the charges for carrying freight and passengers upon such roads shall in such cases be fair and reasonable, and provides suitable penalties for infringement of this regulation. The report discusses the constitutionality of such measure, and if constitutional, its expediency. It claims that section 8 of Article I. of the Constitution of the United States confers in express terms the power to legislate in this behalf, and claims that its expediency is beyond a question.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The Postmaster General has replied to a resolution of the Senate with regard to the franking privilege, &c. He says the net sales of stamps for the next fiscal year to cover the transmission of matter formerly sent through the mails under the franks of heads of departments are estimated at $225,000. A comparison of the receipts on four items, during the quarter ended September 30, 1873, with those in the same items for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, shows an aggregate increase of $1,058,445, and an increase, exclusive of official stamps, of $614,912. Thoroughly impressed as he is with the belief that the repeal of the franking privilege was a wise measure, and will be productive of the best results in the postal service, he earnestly recommends that it be not restored until at least a fair trial can be made. In his last report he recommended the reduction of postage on books to one cent for two ounces. If that suggestion should be adopted he cannot see why postage should not be paid upon Congressional documents as well as upon departmental matter by appropriation from the treasury. In case of a return to the distribution of field and garden seeds and public documents, the Postmaster General recommends that they be transported as freight in other than mail cars. He also recommends the free transportation of weekly newspapers within the counties of their publication, which heretofore has been forbidden.

THE CURRENCY RESERVE.

The question of the right of the Secretary of the Treasury to draw on the forty-four million reserve has been discussed by the Committee on Ways and Means, who have agreed to present the subject to the House and have it settled there. They will present a resolution, however, fixing the limit of the national legal tender currency at four hundred million dollars. This will prevent the return to the Treasury of any of the forty-four million that have been paid out.

DECISIONS IN THE SUPREME COURT.

In the Supreme Court to-day, in the case of Day vs. Micon et al., the court held that in the proceedings in confiscating the property of Judah P. Benjamin, of Confederate notoriety, there was not sufficient notice to Benjamin's mortgagees, and therefore affirm the judgment below sustaining the title of the mortgagees as against Day, the purchaser under the proceedings. In the case of Bougree vs. John Slidell, also known in Confederate history, and others, the decision affirms the judgment below, holding that the confiscation of the property of Slidell passed only a life estate, and did not affect the title of his children as heirs.

JAY COOKE & CO.

Opinion of Judge Cadwalader on the Bankrupt Act as Applicable to Large Estates.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20, 1874.

The hearing in the United States Court, before Judge Cadwalader, in the bankruptcy case of Jay Cooke & Co., to-day, was extremely important, inasmuch as this was the first judicial interpretation of the 43d section of the Bankrupt act of the clause entitled "Of Suspending Bankruptcy Proceedings by Arrangement," for appointing a trustee and committee of creditors. The Judge decided that the popular idea that this section allows the taking of an estate out of bankruptcy and gives more pliable powers to the trustee than other sections give the assignee, was utterly erroneous. The committee of creditors would be only a clog in so large an estate. The title of the clause is delusive, the text not enacting what the title designates. The Judge's inclinations were strongly against appointing a trustee and committee, because this would be the first experiment on this or the other side of the Atlantic, and the subject bristled with disputed points for which there was no precedent to guide. The compensation of committeemen, the cumbrousness of movement, the question of what constitutes a quorum—"force of word direction" in the clause—and divers other difficulties were pointed out in support of the position that the assignee was the best one to wind up an estate. He said he intended to appoint Edwin M. Lewis, the present receiver, assignee, &c. Words fell from him in the course of the discussion which indicated that the bent of his mind was that the estate could be settled up in a few weeks, or at most, months. During his confinement his sister, a young and beautiful girl, was permitted to visit him, but his health gradually gave way, and before the year expired his death was announced. He was buried, and for the time forgotten. The warden of the prison resigned his position, married the young lady above referred to, and moved to parts unknown. Nothing after the gold excitement opened in California, a gentleman who was conversant with the case, and who had followed others to the gold regions, sent back his deposition that he had seen and conversed with V. P. Coolidge. This caused considerable excitement, and the body supposed to be his was exhumed, and his own father testified that it was not his son. Officers were at once dispatched in search of Mathew's friends, but were unsuccessful, and until a few days since nothing has ever been heard of the murderer. Recently a party traveling through Missouri met a gentleman who knew the early history of the matter, and who stated he had met Coolidge frequently within the last two years, traveling under an assumed name; that he recognized him at sight and charged him with being the man; that he at first denied it, but finally acknowledged his identity, and informed him of all the important facts connected with the murder, as follows: He ate very sparingly, feigned sickness, and finally a body was procured from Portland and interred as his remains, and he was furnished with money and started for New Orleans, where he remained but a short time and left, and since that time has been traveling almost constantly, never stopping long in any one place, and the impression seems to be current and strong in the northern part of this State, gave it as his positive belief that, from the description of the leader of the Iowa train robbers, it was no other than the escaped murderer, V. P. Coolidge.

TWO FIRES IN CHICAGO.

The Union Central Depot, with a Number of Passenger Coaches and Baggage Destroyed—Five Other Buildings Burned, with a Loss of $200,000.

CHICAGO, January 20.—Between three and four o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Union Central depot building, occupied by the Michigan Central, Illinois Central and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, at the foot of Lake street, and in a short time made such progress as to defy the efforts of the fire department and was entirely consumed. The baggage in the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy baggage room was nearly all lost, only a few pieces being saved and taken to the freight depot across the street. The baggage in the other room, at the south end of the depot was saved, the fire being put out before it reached that far. Some of it was, however, removed to a place of safety. Nothing was saved from any of the offices in connection with the depot, all being swallowed up in the common destruction. The tracks were filled with cars, and most of them were saved, but the men were unable to remove a number of fine passenger coaches. The Michigan Central lose three passenger coaches and two Pullman sleepers; the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road four three coaches, including one Pullman sleeper; the Illinois Central lose four coaches, partially burned; the Cincinnati Air Line, one coach. The loss is estimated to be between three and four hundred thousand dollars. Insurance not known. The depot was frame, put up after the great fire for temporary use.

While this fire was in progress, and claimed the attention of the fire department, the bell was sounded again, and the announcement was made that a large stone-front block on State street, between Van Buren and Harrison streets, was also on fire. It was nearly twenty minutes before an engine reached the ground, and the flames had made such progress that five buildings, from No. 294 to 302 inclusive, were consumed. The first was a three story building, paint and oil store, 296 and 298 State street. From this building the flames spread on either side to the adjoining buildings. The sufferers are Wirtz & Colby, furniture; Merwin Church, hardware; Woven Wire Mattress Company, W. T. Stickney, ladies' underwear, M. W. & T. Lester, furnace. The loss is estimated at about $200,000. Armstrong, on stock $14,000, and on building about $60,000; Merwin Church, Nos. 300 and 302, about the same; Wirtz & Colby, about $18,000. These buildings were new, having been erected since the great fire.

LATER.—The total loss by the burning of the Union Depot this morning was about $92,500, not including about three hundred pieces of baggage in the baggage room of the Illinois Central Company, and which are appraised at about $10,000. In addition to this baggage, the Illinois Central estimates its losses at $20,000. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road estimates its loss at $15,000; the Pullman palace cars $3,500, and the Michigan Central road $12,000. The movement of the trains of this road is not interfered with by the fire, all the passenger trains leaving to-day and to-night as usual from the site of the burned depot. W. E. Tunes, of Detroit, was the owner of the stationery stand where the fire originated, loses $2,000.

The losses by the fire on State street foot up $129,400, distributed as follows: G. E. Mason, building Nos. 296 and 298 State street, $20,000; insured $7,500 in the Commercial Union, $7,000

The Daily Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1874.

The new Chief Justice (that is to be) is a good illustration of the virtue of patience and of the placid serenity of those who are not in a hurry to be great. "They also serve who only stand and WAITE."

A PHILADELPHIA paper bitterly complains that Colonel MCCLURE has been met and checked at every step he has taken with regard to the new Election law. This is easily accounted for. The honest men in the Legislature outnumber the rogues.

HARDLY ever before, it is stated, have there been so many and such hungry place-hunters focused together in Washington, as are there assembled now. It is the off-year in politics, but there would seem to be no such thing as an off-year in office-seekers.

THE Philadelphia *Press* can see no difference between an amnestied Southern rebel and a conscienceless Northern recusant. The people can, and do, however; and hence the moral aumarosis from which that paper suffers injures no one but itself.

THE Kentucky Democratic Senate has refused, by a party vote, to allow the United States flag to be hoisted over the Capitol while that body is in session. If the flag could have been consulted, it would have indignantly declined to float over such a lot of traitors.

THE Philadelphia *Press* attempts to assail the judicial integrity of the Supreme Court of this State, by charging that it "decided in favor of an unfair Registry law before the late election." What a pity that the all-comprehending DOGBERRY who controls that paper was not nominated for the Chief Justiceship of the United States!

"TOOMBS has been making a rip-roaring speech down in Georgia. He is in favor of the proposed Constitutional Convention in that State, advocates repudiation, and glories in still being a rebel and under the ban of this government."—*Baltimore American.*

We called attention to this fact several days ago, FORNEY, however, still "expects" to see TOOMBS presently re-occupying his old seat in the United States Senate.

THE National Health Convention, composed of representatives of the various Health Boards in the cities of the United States, assembles at Washington to-day. The object of the convention is to confer upon the various subjects connected with the conservation of the public health, and the most efficient means of accomplishing the great purposes contemplated in the appointment of sanitary boards. The subject of the organization of a National Sanitary Bureau, for the purpose of collating and diffusing information upon the different subjects relating to public hygiene, will also be considered.

THE probabilities are that there will be plenty of money offering us from England, this year. The stock and loan statistics of that country for the year just closed, show that during that period there was paid to us by English capitalists the sum of $15,499,456 for new loans, most of them to companies which had little or no standing in our own money centres. In this calculation, moreover, no account is taken of United States bonds, nor the old bonds or stocks of well-known corporations, railroad or otherwise. Hence it is not unreasonable to expect that during the current year Great Britain will invest quite largely in our first-class securities, when they can be obtained.

IT is reported from Washington that the feeling in Congress is averse to passing upon claims growing out of the late war beyond those allowed by the Southern Claims Commission, which amount in the aggregate to some $600,000. It is to be hoped the statement may prove to be well founded. The prudent course for Congress to take is to do as little as possible besides passing the regular appropriation bills, paring these down as much as is practicable. Private claims of the character referred to should be scrutinized with especial care, the government having already been more than once defrauded in this very particular, by the false representations of so-called "Southern loyalists."

THE representative press, we are glad to note, is generally taking ground against the cramming of school children's heads with special studies. This is an evil of greater gravity than is popularly supposed. These studies are forced into the minds of pupils at an age when the reasoning powers are undeveloped, and the memory in its highest state of receptivity. Obviously, that is the age when elementary facts should be laid in store, and when the art of using facts should begin to be taught in that careful and guarded way which takes care not to anticipate development. We have societies which do a good work in preventing cruelty to animals, but ought there not to be some power which can prevent a child's brain being used and taxed until nature revolts?

PREPARATIONS are already noticeable for the spring trade, and prospects seemingly look very favorable for a large business. The prevailing ease in the money market, also, will further facilitate the general resumption of industrial and business activity, and improve the increasingly favorable outlook. Besides this, business men generally have had a good lesson in the results of the many recent disturbing financial elements, and will not hereafter be so easily led into adventurous speculations which almost invariably result unprofitably and in the end prove to be nothing but schemes devised to delude the honest dealer. The careful merchant who avoids all hazardous investments, and is satisfied with the profits of his legitimate business, is invariably the most successful in the long run.

THE aggregate railroad mileage of the United States is now 71,564 miles; of second track and sidings, 13,512, or a grand total of single track of 85,076 miles. The number of companies is 850. Of locomotives there are 14,223; passenger, baggage and express cars, 13,725, and freight cars 338,427. The total capital stock amounts to $2,072,251,954, or $23,966 per mile. The total funded and floating debt is $1,999,744,597, and the total cost of railroads and equipments, $3,728,416,958, or about $52,099 per mile. During the past year 4,190 miles of new railroad were built. Upon the basis of the statistics of the last four years, the *Iron Age* estimates that there will this year be needed at least 675,000 tons of new or rerolled rails, and perhaps something over 700,000 tons, to maintain our railroad system in a proper condition of repairs; to which must be added the requirements of the railroads for sidings, switches, extensions and duplicate tracks, as well as the iron required for the three thousand miles of new road, which, it is believed, will be built this year. If this estimate is correct, it is pretty safe to conclude that the consumption of railroad iron during the current year will nearly, if not quite, equal the present productive capacity of the country.

"KENTUCKY is sadly in need of a thoroughgoing, hard-working, laboring element. She has many uncultivated fields, her forests are extensive, and her immense mineral resources are almost entirely undeveloped."—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

The same is true of nearly all the Southern States. There is, however, another thing of which they stand "sadly in need"—which is, that the people of that region shall relinquish their caste prejudices and political hatreds, accept in good faith the new order of events, and learn to look upon all labor as manly and honorable. We are quite willing to believe that the spirit of the South has undergone a considerable change for the better since the close of the war, and that an infusion of new capital and new energy would not only be welcomed in a very different manner, but would be met with much more hearty co-operation than the people were then in a condition to offer. If, however, the inhabitants of Kentucky and her sister States of the South would only work half as hard as the New England farmer does, they would, in the course of a few years, be able measurably to develop the resources of that section themselves, without any assistance from abroad. The prime difficulty is that while the people are half crazy on politics, they are, in an industrial sense, too idle to help themselves. What is needed is, not glowing paragraphs concerning the undeveloped riches which lie all around them, nor systems of immigration, nor appeals to outside capital, half so much as the conquering element of self-help.

THE apparently insoluble "servant girl question" is again vexing the land. We suspect that housewives complain so bitterly, is largely in their own hands. When they give up false and foolish pride, and come to believe that all labor is honorable, they will probably find little difficulty in securing honest, honorable, and self-respecting laborers. The subject has a significance wholly outside of the mere inconvenience to which women are subject from the independence and impertinence of servants. It means, in fact, that the women of society have passed the boundary where dependence upon others could safely be made. Nowhere does nature allow a life of mere indolence and ease. Muscles are not made for idleness, and if there be any one law stamped more plainly upon the surface of life than another, it is the law that work must be done by every human being. Out of the insult that has been offered to this law the domestic trouble chiefly grows, and in the return to its obligations, and only by this course, can women, social women, our wives and daughters and their offspring, become properly independent in their own households, the principle being embodied in the statement that vital force is greater than any other. We do not advocate resort to kitchen drudgery, but we do assert that the domestic and other social difficulties which encompass women are only to be met by her acceptance of her share of the law that requires labor of all humanity. Household service will remain under a ban, so far as American girls are concerned, just as long as housekeepers themselves look upon it as disgraceful, and show the reality of this opinion by bringing up their own daughters in almost total ignorance of the duties which were the pleasure and pride of their grandmothers.

THE ELECTION LAW.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* regrets that the State Senate did not incorporate into the election bill some more stringent provisions against fraud at elections. It claims that Philadelphia is such a wicked and corrupt place that extra stringency must be practiced there to keep down the abounding rascality of its citizens. Now, in the first place, we do not believe that Philadelphia is half as wicked and corrupt as she is represented; and in the second place, as the Election law applies equally to the whole State, we are not inclined to brand the whole State with the evil reputation the *Inquirer* gives to Philadelphia, which would have to be done if provisions were incorporated in the law for the special latitude of that city. The new Constitution requires that all laws regulating registration and elections shall be *uniform*; and what is good enough and effective enough to prevent fraud in the rest of the State, ought to be good enough and effective enough in Philadelphia.

The bill which passed the Senate has, practically, been in operation in the State outside of Philadelphia since 1869, and has secured fair elections. It is now proposed to extend it to Philadelphia; and if laws that work well elsewhere fail in that city, there will be no alternative but to put it in the Penitentiary or annex it to the whipping posts of Delaware. We prefer to give it a fair trial with a fair law, before concluding that it is not amenable to the laws that have sufficed to restrain the evil-minded in the rest of the State.

The provision over the omission of which the *Inquirer* is so lugubrious, was one to provide that the registration of voters should be made by two canvassers, one of each party, to be appointed by the courts. The objection to this is, that it throws the whole subject of registration into the hands of the courts, and that an ill-natured canvasser could, if he chose, prevent the registration of any one in his district.

Besides that, it must be remembered that registration, under the new Constitution, is not conclusive of the right to vote, and that consequently it matters but little whether a man's name is on the registry or not, if he can prove his right to vote. Any one on the registry can be challenged, and any one not on the registry can vote on making proof of his right to do so. The registry, therefore, under the new law, is not of the importance that a registry was under the law hitherto prevailing specially in Philadelphia, under which no one could vote if his name was omitted from the registry. That law no longer exists; and there is no need for any such thing as a difficult or contested canvass of voters. A man's right to vote in this State, henceforth, depends exclusively upon his possession of the constitutional qualifications and his ability to make proof of them. If he possesses these and can establish his possession of them, no registry can deprive him of his franchise, and if he does not possess them, no mere registry can give them to him.

All this outcry, then, about the necessity for such a canvass of voters as could be made only by two men of different politics, is based upon the idea that the *old* law is still in force in Philadelphia, and that the appearance of a man's name on the canvasser's list gives him the right to vote, while his exclusion therefrom deprives him of his right. No such law is now in existence, and the evil consequences of the old law are not to be provided against.

The principle that a voter's name must be on the registry to entitle him to vote, never prevailed in this State, outside of Philadelphia. In the State at large the Election law has always made provision for getting in the votes of those qualified voters who were not on the registry, and the State practice has, therefore, in this respect, been in accord with the provision now incorporated in the new Constitution that exclusion from the registry shall not work a forfeiture of the right to vote. The Election law of 1869 was and is fully in harmony with this provision; and in extending that law to Philadelphia, the constitutional requirements have been fully complied with. Philadelphia could not have expected less than this; and there is no constitutional warrant for exacting more.

The State contains 500,000 voters outside of Philadelphia, to 120,000 within that city. It is meet, therefore, that the Election law of the State should be made for the many rather than the few; and as the Constitution requires it to be uniform in its provisions and operations, the city of Philadelphia has no right to ask to burden the rest of the State with provisions which a vivid imagination has conjured up as necessary for that special locality. Human nature is presumed to be the same there as elsewhere; and what is good enough for Pennsylvania at large must be regarded as sufficiently good for Philadelphia, until experience shall show it to be otherwise.

A MILD REFORMER GONE

MR. CHARLES ASTOR BRISTED, whose death was announced a few days ago, though in a certain sense a distinguished character, was never a favorite either of the American press or the American public. Early in his career he began to write for the magazines, calling himself CARL BENSON, and his assiduous literary labors soon attracted a degree of attention which might be described as notoriety rather than fame. His contemporaries of the press seem to have found somewhat in his essays, social sketches, etc., intensely irritating, if not positively offensive to their self-esteem, not only as free and independent citizens of the Great Republic, but as ornaments of society. In fact, it soon began to be suspected that CARL BENSON regarded himself as somewhat more and higher than a mere man of letters, who sought reputation for himself while providing entertainment for his readers. In his productions an ethical purpose was too transparently manifest; a purpose also, as BENSON himself might have said, to imitate the nurse of whom LUCRETIUS wrote and who sweetened the edges of the cup to reconcile her child to the bitter draught needful for its health. But the sweetening appears not to have been skilfully managed. It was frightfully evident that CARL BENSON, who had been educated at a foreign university, and had seen a good deal of good foreign society, was painfully impressed with the deficiencies and redundancies of American society in general and of New York society in particular. Perhaps at the distant time of which we write, the fact that the audacious censor of manners was a grandson, and only after all a grandson, of rich old JACOB ASTOR, did not tend to conciliate those who felt wounded by the criticisms actually published or exposed to those which were to follow. Some writers for the newspapers felt especially injured by CARL BENSON's occasional strictures on the license of the American press, and naturally they made no secret of their disgust and indignation at an American who showed himself so shamefully incapable of appreciating the palladium of American liberty. It was not strange that some of them confidently inferred from such blindness and depravity that BENSON had been completely corrupted by association with the sanguinary despots and bloated aristocrats of the old world. Having arrived at this conclusion, an obvious dictate of patriotism required them, by the use of the weapons at their command, to neutralize, as far as possible, the influence of so unworthy and contemptible a character. It may be frankly admitted also that CARL BENSON was liberal in laying open weak points to his critics, and that his writings abounded in traits of conceit, that his writings abounded in traits of conceit, that presumption and occasional *naïveté* of self-revelation which exposed him to easy ridicule.

All these and some other unadmirable characteristics were strikingly illustrated in his controversy with a veteran professor of Greek in a distinguished American college. One result of Mr. BRISTED's education in England, where, after graduating at Yale, he spent five years as a student in the University of Cambridge, was a contempt for American scholarship in general too profound to be expressed by any adjectives or accumulation of adjectives which he could command. Thus helpless to set forth his disdain in the ordinary, simple way, he yet seems to have found the need of giving it expression a feeling quite irresistible and uncontrollable. Like some "gospel tidings," it burned to be uttered, and it found utterance in divers forms. Hence, among others, his scornful disparagement of one mature Yankee Hellenist as a mere smatterer, unfit to teach even the elements, and hence, if we rightly remember, his absurd challenge publicly addressed to another eminent American professor of Greek, in which he proposed that they two should be locked up together in a room without lexicons or other books, and there produce each a dozen or more Greek iambics, to be afterwards submitted for comparison to some well-known scholar. The professor thus challenged, doubtless, as his works prove, possessed a sound and very extensive knowledge of Greek, though quite likely or even certainly, from the absence of the peculiar training in verse-making practiced in English public schools and universities, he would have failed in such a contest as Mr. BRISTED proposed.

One who at the present day reads Mr. BRISTED's "Five Years at an English University," can hardly fail to give the author credit for most worthy and excellent motives in dwelling, as he does, on certain topics which, in 1851, when the book first appeared, seemed to be offensively and unpatriotically treated. Though not without a sufficient sense of his own merits, he displays no disagreeable arrogance or conceit in his narrative, and there is entire absence of anything like a desire to exaggerate his own scholarship and intellectual attainments. He evidently tries to tell the truth about himself as well as others, and to relate such facts as may serve to give readers strictly correct notions of the degree and kind of education imparted at Cambridge. Fresh from one of the oldest and best American colleges, and by his English experience fully convinced of the meager and imperfect instruction given, and of the bad methods followed in the American institution, he is at continual pains to present the contrast in a vigorous and vivid way. He may or may not have anticipated the offense his work would give and the unpopularity he was toiling for; he appears, in truth, too satisfied of the wholesomeness of his disclosures to care much for any effect they may produce over and above the needful reforms which they suggest in the matter of American collegiate education. The too sweeping generalizations and the failure always to perceive and recognize the good points in American colleges are sufficiently excused by the object of the book and the youth of the author.

That the book has done great good there can be no doubt. It has had unquestionable influence in raising the standard of scholarship in American colleges, especially in the East, while its effect in stimulating industry and inculcating manly tastes and pursuits among the students has been hardly less beneficent. In consideration of such results even a harsh judge might be tempted to overlook those obvious blemishes of the volume which used to be picked out and exhibited with so much delight.

When Mr. BRISTED had written his "Five Years at an English University" he had probably produced the only useful book of which he was capable. His mind appears to have been essentially commonplace, and possessed no speculative power. Though a good classical scholar and a writer of correct and agreeable English, he lacked the qualities necessary at the present day to acquire even moderate eminence in literature, and his books, except the one just named, are not much read or known.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The third trial is said to be lucky.

Thaw's sponge is as bad as Thor's hammer, and a great deal nastier.

C. C. now agrees with Martin Van Buren, who used to say that it was better to walk thirty miles to see a man than to write him a letter.

Florida already rejoices in green peas and new potatoes. The natives don't eat them, however. They live principally on fish and strangers—but care very little for fish.

Shrew 1. A Brooklyn widow has just ascertained, from an examination of her late husband's correspondence with his mother-in-law, that the old lady's omission to visit them was due to the continued prevalence of small-pox in their family.

It is astonishing to see the number of friends the poor man has in the Legislature now in session. A great many speakers find it necessary to state positively their friendship for this class. Well, they would never find it out in any other way.

The Jubilee Singers singing "John Brown" at the birthplace of William Wilberforce, the great English opponent of slavery, is a grand subject for the historic canvass.

It's the sole truth that it costs the people of the United States from $400,000,000 to $500,000,000 per annum for feet gear.

If there is any one earthly subject on which the average Congressman seems more ignorant than another, it is political economy.

A Bourbon paper says that "most of the brains of the Republican party came out of the Democratic ranks." We knew the latter party had lost them, but this is the first confession of the fact, so far as we have remarked.

A husband, whose wife had been speechless for eleven months, writes to his paper in glowing praises of the physician who found and restored the missing vocal powers. After a while he won't feel so grateful.

There is a fight in the Illinois Legislature as to whether the souls of convicts shall be saved according to Catholicism or according to Protestantism.

A distinguished preacher says piety is the best cure for a scolding wife; but we are not told whether the wife must have it or the husband. Probably he meant the former.

Many more people born in Kentucky are now living outside the State than there are people born outside the State living in it.

Rise-up William Allen is allowed to use a stamp for signature as Governor of Ohio, "on account of the palsy."

The amount of State aid granted the Penobscot tribe of Indians in Maine, last year, was $8,185. The smallness of the grant is explained by the fact that there are no Indian agents in Maine.

English artists have prepared a fine collection of water-color pictures for exhibition at the New York Academy; but in consequence of the refusal of the American government to allow them to be admitted free of duty, they will not be sent over.

The utilization of Sunday for lectures on science has become a phenomenon of the season in London. On a single Sunday lately there were four scientific lectures given by very eminent men of science.

It is a somewhat singular fact that every member of Congress from Minnesota was either born or spent the early part of his life in Maine.

Southern planters are growing sensible. They have sown three times as much wheat this season as they did last. They will also sow more oats and plant more corn.

Ether appears, beyond question, to be the safest anæsthetic. By combining American and British data relating to this question, the result shows conclusively that chloroform is eight times as dangerous as ether, twice as dangerous as a mixture of chloroform and ether, and, as far as experience goes, it is more dangerous than bi-chloride of methylene.

It is reported that the Republicans of Tennessee have decided upon Congressman Horace Maynard as their candidate for Governor next fall, with the intention of sending him to the United States Senate if he is elected.

The political caldron is at the boiling point in Canada.

The loans of Great Britain to foreign governments amounted in 1873 to £128,840,760, on which £84,661,933 was paid up.

Some stir has been created at Paris by the appearance of a pamphlet in which the idea is put forward that the Prince Imperial is not too young to reign, and that he ought to be called to his father's throne.

The people of South Carolina are beginning to rebel against the enormous taxation under which they are suffering. We believe the Palmetto State is badly off, but her condition is the consequence of her secession.

The harbor of New York is reported to be slowly filling up. Even large merchantmen, it is stated, can't enter it, and one of them lately had to go to Philadelphia and discharge her cargo.

The *Fortnightly Review* prophesies that the day is not far distant when farming in England will become a commercial speculation, and will be carried on by large joint-stock concerns, issuing shares of ten, fifteen or fifty pounds each, and occupying from three to ten thousand acres.

Ben Wood, of New York, is heavily interested, pecuniarly, in the Charleston, South Carolina, *News and Courier*, the only morning journal in that city.

During the quarter ending December 31, 1873, there were sent from the New York post-office 20,865 registered domestic letters, and 10,983 foreign letters, showing an increase over the previous quarter of 2,500 domestic, and 289 foreign registered letters.

Our knowledge concerning the deserts of Africa bids fair to be widely extended during the course of the present year. Three exploring expeditions are now investigating the extent, topography and climatic peculiarities of those arid plains.

Still growing. The taxable property of Colorado amounts to $35,582,438, an increase of $12,000,000 in two years.

The "Commercial."

[From the Marietta (O.) Register.]

Washington county farmers sell most of their produce in the Pittsburgh market, and stand in need of a good Pittsburgh paper. We commend to them the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL. It is one of the best city papers, and within the reach of all, in price.

PERSONAL.

An English paper suggests a useful opening for the employment of woman's rights women. The baggage train in the British expedition on the Gold coast is made up chiefly of women, who are found to be more useful than the men, and who claim the right to whip those of the latter who refused to fight. It is proposed that some of our strong-minded women might be advantageously employed as officers over these black Amazons.

Judge Brent, of the Maryland Court of Appeals, is dangerously ill. Judge Pearce, of the Maryland Supreme Court, has had his shoulder dislocated, and the nose of Caleb Cushing was recently put out of joint.

The Queen of England is in trouble with one of her laborers at Osborne, Isle of Wight. Instead of paying more wages than others, she has educated their children, provided medical attendance, presents at Christmas, clothes, &c. But now one Herbert gets up a row, because, striking not only for more pay but less time, he got dismissed.

A sister of Edgar A. Poe is in Baltimore, destitute and homeless.

They had a fat person's ball in New York the other day. The march was led by a man weighing 365 pounds, and his lady was of very small build. The largest lady in the ball room was a school teacher, who weighed 209 pounds avoirdupois just previous to entering her carriage to go to the ball. She was much admired and floated in the mazy polka redowa as if she were a gazelle. The supper was a very solid one—a turkey per fat man—and the only thing light about the entertainment was the music.

Senator Sumner is sitting to Mr. Ulke, a German artist at Washington, for a full length portrait, which has been ordered by the Haytian Legislature for its halls.

Congress seems just now in the transition stage between the border of grotesquerie of men like David Crockett, James Mullens and one of the present members, William Crutchfield, and the more refined humor and keen attorney's satire of men like Noah Davis, Ben Butler and "Sunset" Cox. Sometimes a kindly man, who does not suspect his own ignorance, gets among them, like Mr. Whaley, of West Virginia, who recently rose and objected to seeing Mr. *Ex Ad*, receiving so many appropriations without explanation.

Lord Melbourne said, just before his death, that the great event of a near generation would be a bitter conflict between ecclesiasticism and the civil power; and that he, for one, was glad that he should not survive to see it. The signs of the times in Europe certainly point to the rapidly approaching fulfilment of the shrewd old statesman's prophesy.

If, when such men as Agassiz die, you could stop in the street fifty men and women who dealt intimately with them, and compel each one to put on paper two or three anecdotes which seem characteristic and vital, by way of memory of the life of him who had died, you would get the best biography. That is the way Plutarch wrote. He did not try to work out the chronology. Whether Alexander the Great were three years and two months studying his Greek verbs at Master Aristotle's academy, or whether he were two years and eleven months, Plutarch does not tell. He does not annoy you with dates, genealogies, blue books, or red tape. But he tells you a series of stories of Alexander, which show you the man thoroughly well.

OHIO NEWS.

The average daily expenses of the Constitutional Convention have been thus far about $400.

There were thirty-seven deaths in Cleveland, last week.

According to the Sandusky *Register*, the Woodhullites have recently attempted to institute a free-love community at Wellington, Lorain county, which has proved a complete failure, in spite of determined efforts to give it sufficient vitality to enable it to live.

A lodge of the "Ancient Order of the Knights of the Mystic Chain" has been instituted at East Liverpool.

The plane makers at the Sandusky tool works, have struck, in view of recovering a late reduction of twenty per cent. on their wages.

In Cleveland no pupil is received into school without furnishing a physician's certificate that he or she has been successfully vaccinated, or otherwise secured against small-pox.

Rev. E. T. Hunt, of Mansfield, has received an invitation to become principal of the Female College in Santa Barbara, Cal.

The new iron bridge, in course of construction at Findlay—being erected at a cost of $15,000—will, it is expected, be finished this week.

The mayor of Findlay, by direction of the council of that village, offers $500 reward for the arrest of incendiaries. The number of fires which have occurred in that village recently has occasioned this action.

The Fremont *Journal* says that on Thursday morning, the 4th, the body of a colored infant was found floating in a pond near the Schultz House, in Forest. The matter is under investigation.

The people of West End, Cincinnati, are agitated over the mysterious disappearance of a man's back yard, which slumped, the other day, leaving him the proprietor of a large hole. The premises were on made land, and, as the others are similarly situated, their owners are musing over the uncertainties of life.

A granddaughter of the late President Harrison is teaching school at Mt. Auburn. Her school is not a large one, but as her industry and perseverance become more widely known, she will undoubtedly have the large patronage that she so well deserves. So says the Cincinnati *Gazette*.

The Springfield Malleable Iron Company, when in full operation, expect to make about one hundred and twenty tons per month and employ about one hundred hands. Extensive improvements in buildings and works are now being made, and, in spite of winter, have been rapidly pushed forward.

The investigation into the affairs of the Dayton postoffice promises some rich developments. Mr. Leedom, the former chief clerk, assumes the responsibility for all the fraudulent pay-rolls. When the full details of the case are given, it will be admitted that its peculiarities are of the most remarkable character.

A letter from Macedonia announces the death of Mr. Jeremiah Cranmer, at the age of fifty-one years. Macedonia was the place of his birth as well as his death, and most of his life had been spent in that little town. His death was sudden, and surrounded with suspicious circumstances, but a post mortem examination failed to reveal any proofs of foul play. His stomach and a portion of the lungs will be subjected to a careful chemical analysis, and if his death resulted from any cause other than congestion of the lungs, it will be duly made known.

Ask the Cincinnati people how they like the "arctic morning glory," and they will look sheepish. A young man recently went about in that city, exhibiting under a glass case a plant growing from a sponge. When the glass globe was removed the bystanders were delighted by a delicious perfume, which the young man said was exhaled from the plant. He sold little packages of seeds, from which, he said, similar plants would grow in about a fortnight, if sown in the house. He victimized a large number of people, who now have large crops of turnips growing in their flower-pots. The delicious perfume didn't come from the plant at all, but from some essences which the rogue had imprisoned in the glass globe.

The Youngstown *Register* says a man named John Burns, under arrest for wife beating in Pennsylvania, has confessed having murdered Henry Evarts and John McClure, of Youngstown. Both men died under suspicious circumstances. Burns says he shed their blood for money, but did not get much. The confession may be true, but of course it will require good corroborative testimony before any judicial decision would be based thereon. Burns undoubtedly knows whether he is guilty or not, but he must get more evidence than his own before the executioner will arrest the course of nature in his body.

It is said that J. H. Rowland, who so serenely passed away from Richland with $110,000 of county money, is in Canada. One of our exchanges asserts that he had evinced a willingness to refund all the stolen lucre on condition that his bondsmen be released, and that he go unprosecuted. If he has made such an offer, it will undoubtedly be accepted, as he cannot, under our extradition treaty, be brought to this State. Under the Ashburton treaty there are but five crimes for which a person may be extradited from England or her colonies—viz.: murder, arson, forgery, treason and robbery. The latter is clearly defined in Canada to be the taking from the person of another by violence. The person so charged must be arrested on a warrent of a magistrate, and stand an examination as in similar cases in this country. If the evidence would be sufficient, if the crime was committed in Canada, to commit the prisoner to appear before the next Quarter Session—our Common Pleas Court—then he is committed to await the action of the United States authorities, and will then be delivered to the agent of the United States appointed by the President. This being a defalcation and embezzlement, it will hardly come under the crimes enumerated above.

The Marietta *Register* says: On Friday last a couple of Harmar boys, while hunting, discovered the dead body of an old lady, named Eunice Seeley. She was lying under an apple tree, on the premises of Mr. A. S. Bailey, near the house of Mr. Bennet Bailey, in Warren township. An inquest was held by Coroner Morse, on Saturday, when it was ascertained that her name was Mrs. Eunice Seeley; that she was eighty-three years of age; that her husband was in the county house; that her home was on Little Hocking; that she was on her way to friends in Harmar; and that she died from fatigue and exposure while on her way. Her grandson offered to pay her way on the cars, but she would not ride on them, for the reason that, years ago, she had a son killed on the railroad.

The Caldwell *Republican* tells this: A bibulously inclined preacher tried to preach at Smith's school house, in Brookfield township, last Thursday evening. The congregation, surmising rightly that the would-be exponent of the Holy Writ was drunk, left the school house, the minister following out of doors, and while expostulating with them for leaving, the door of the building was quietly locked, thus putting an end to the services.

STATE NEWS.

The Shenandoah *Herald* of the 17th inst. says: Most assuredly if President Gowen does not meet the men half way to-day, the onus of the suspension which will follow will rest upon the shoulders of the company, and the sympathy and influence of the whole community, for the first time in the history of strikes in the county, will be against him.

The Reading Railroad Rolling Mill and Steam Forge suspended operations on Saturday last, and the suspension will in all probability continue until a more favorable aspect of the coal trouble presents itself, the suspension in the anthracite region being assigned as the cause for the stoppage of these works. Several hundred hands are thrown out of employment.

There are three Granges in Lancaster county —one at Locust Grove, one at Pleasant Grove and one at Strasburg.

The street car companies of Philadelphia paid $70,000 State taxes last year.

The Highway Department of Philadelphia, during the year 1873, expended $2,086,901 in paving and grading streets, and in making the various improvements authorized by City Councils. Of this amount $1,085,433 73 was taken from special appropriations. The principal items of expenses were: Repairing paved streets and over water pipe, $108,000; grading streets and roads, $188,000; paving intersections, $73,174 60; paving Market and Broad streets, $170,792 64; Fairmount bridge, $149,238 83; Girard avenue bridge, $878,291.

The Clara Furnace, in New Castle, owned by Crowther & Co., resumed operations last week. There are now six furnaces in blast in that city.

The Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad will be exposed to public sale at the Mechanics' Exchange, Philadelphia, on the 5th day of May, 1874.

During 1873, seventy-one persons were buried out of one church in Lebanon.

The Croton Glass Works, New Castle, which have been idle for several months, will begin work anew in a few days.

A young lady named Hecker, of Conemaugh, had her back broken by being thrown from a sleigh, on Sunday. It is thought she cannot recover.

Samuel Telford is in jail at Ebensburg, charged with highway robbery.

The members of the bar of Philadelphia advocate an increase in the pay of the Judges of the local courts.

There were two hundred and ninety-five deaths in Philadelphia, last week, including fifty-two from consumption of the lungs.

The round-houses of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in Harrisburg, accommodate eighty-eight locomotives, independent of the room on the main tracks leading into them.

From the Shippensburg *News* we take the following notice of the death of Mrs. Snyder, wife of Chief Engineer Snyder, late the head of the Department of Steam Enginery at the Annapolis Naval Academy, but now on board the United States steamship Franklin, in the Pacific squadron: "It is with feelings of profound regret we make the announcement of the death of Mrs. S. Ella Snyder, daughter of Hon. A. G. Miller, and wife of Henry Lee Snyder, of the United States navy, at her father's residence, in this place, on Friday noon of last week. The death of this estimable lady occurs under circumstances of the most mournful character. Her husband, an official in high position in the navy, is now at sea, and many days must elapse before these sad tidings reach him. Mrs. Snyder was an affectionate daughter and wife, and the remembrance of her amiable and kindly disposition and engaging manners will long dwell in the memories of those who were so fortunate as to come within the pale of her acquaintance."

Fourteen persons who had lived to or beyond the age of eighty years, died in Philadelphia last week, viz: Hannah Gross, aged 81; Fredrica Geller, 82; Elizabeth Smith, 82; Susannah Measels, 83; Mary Russell, 85; Margaret Corney, 85; Michael Dougherty, 85; Charity Parsons, 85; George Merritt, 90; Charles Rees, 87; John Fowler, 89; Bridget Malone, 90; Matilda Nickel, 92, and Charles Ruoff, 92.

Lawrence Schilp, aged fifty years, under indictment for theft, committed suicide in Harrisburg on the 17th inst., rather than go to jail or stand his trial. He borrowed an old musket, charged it heavily, put the muzzle in his mouth, worked the trigger with a piece of lath, and blew nearly the whole of his head to fragments.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has been informed that Judge Cadwalder has granted a motion to dismiss the injunction in Collector Elliott, obtained by the Reading Railroad Company, to restrain the collection of certain penalties and interest accruing by reason of the non-payment of certain taxes in 1870. The court gives the company an opportunity to appeal to the Treasury Department if it desires so to do.

The Savannah, Ga., *News* says: "A pious young Pennsylvanian, named Weaver, was found under a man's bed, in Jacksonville, Florida, the other day, armed with a bottle of chloroform. He claims to be a nephew of Governor Hartranft, and it is very likely he is. He is now in jail." It happens, however, that Governor Hartranft has no nephew by the name of Weaver.

An effort is being made to organize a Young Men's Christian Association in Bedford.

Schem's Statistics of the World.

A most valuable statistical table has been compiled by Professor Alexander J. Schem under this title, and is to be published semi-annually, by G. J. Moulton, 103 Fulton street, New York. The tables are practically arranged, for consultation at a glance, giving the statistics of all countries of the globe in parallel columns, under the following headings: Area, form of government, head of government, population, expenses, public debt, paper money, standing army, navy, merchant vessels, imports and exports chief produce, coins (and their value at the U. S. Mint), weights (compared with both, pounds avoirdupois and kilogrammes), linear measures (compared with both, feet and metres), measures of capacity, (compared with both, bushels, gallons, and metres), the population of capitals, principal seaports, with the census of 1870, and in addition to the above there are various side tables exhibiting statistics of Christianity, religious statistics of Europe and of the United States, railroads of the world and of the United States, postal telegraph statistics of the world, the Presidents of the United States, and Presidential elections from 1788 to 1872, school statistics of the United States, etc. The statistical year books, public records, almanacs, and periodicals, both of America and Europe, have been carefully compared, and the information on all subjects brought down to November, 1873. As many of the subjects embraced within the scope of these tables, such as form of government, area, population of the country, population of the cities, imports, exports, expenses, public debt, are constantly changing, the value of a work which furnishes the very latest information is obvious. These tables form an indispensable supplement to all historical and geographical works, and especially to cyclopedias, and should be in the hands of every one who takes an interest in the progress of the world. The tables are issued in oblong atlas form, bound in neat boards, for handy reference.

Unhealthy Surroundings.

To breathe pure, healthful air, and to follow occupations conducive to health and long life are the privileges of the minority. The majority must dwell wherever their lot is cast, however insalubrious the locality may be, and work at the craft assigned to them, however destructive to health and vigor. Medical science has, however, come to the aid of the latter. In Hostetter's Stomach Bitters they have (and have had for the last twenty-five years) the best defence against the morbid influences which create and foster disease, that the vegetable kingdom can supply. Its ingredients are among the finest botanic specifics which research has yet revealed to man. As a preventive of, and remedy for the diseases generated by swamps, miasma, the foul air of factories, excessive heat, over exertion of body or mind, nawkishness, water, or any other morbific cause, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters bear away the palm from all medicines of the present day.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.

ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1873....$778,251 56.

Chartered in 1862.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 9 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent., computed from the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Books of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office.

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

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Natural Polish,

The Best Article in the World for all purposes.

It will Clean and Polish anything and everything, from the FINEST GOLD JEWELRY to the worst tarnished LOCOMOTIVE, FIRE ENGINE OR KITCHEN UTENSIL.

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REOPENS JANUARY 8TH. Departments in Civil and Mechanical Engineering, the Classics and English thoroughly organized. For circulars apply to GEAS. H PAULSON, Esq., 76 Wood street, Pittsburgh, or to Col. THO. HYATT, President

DRY GOODS.

AT

McKEE'S,

UNTIL

February 1st,

In order to REDUCE STOCK preparatory to taking the

ANNUAL INVENTORY,

And in order to make room for

SPRING GOODS,

The ENTIRE STOCK on hand, embracing

Choice Dress Goods, Black Silks, Shawls, Cloaks, Cloths, Cassimeres, Jeans, &c., &c.,

HAS BEEN REDUCED, AND FROM NOW

UNTIL FEBRUARY 1st,

WILL BE OFFERED AT

GREATER REDUCTIONS

THAN EVER BEFORE.

A. D. McKEE,

No. 59 Market Street.

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

STATEMENT OF THE

Humboldt Fire Insurance Co.,

OF ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.,

FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1873

Capital Stock.....$ 50,000 00
With Privilege to increase to.....200,000 00

ASSETS.

Cash.....$ 6,728 40
Stock Notes.....25,000 00
Mortgages, First Lien.....30,300 00
Premiums in Course of Collection.....2,899 16
Interest Due and Unpaid.....286 50
Office Furniture and Fixtures.....745 20
—$65,063 26

FINANCE AND TRADE.

TUESDAY EVENING, January 20, 1874.

Currency schemes are still being brought forward at Washington, and the vicious process of still inflating the huge volume of our unredeemable circulation is steadily and stubbornly progressing.

Senator Wright is the latest advocate of expansion, arguing that money is scarce, and that it has not increased in the same proportion that wealth has during the last decade, but he does not distinguish between *money* and *currency*. Too much money we cannot have, but too much currency we have already.

There is but little doubt if this pernicious system of undue expansion is aggravated and continued, that sooner or later we will have another *credit* panic, ending in collapse. Every business man has a perfect right to issue his promises to pay to any extent he can get people to take them. No one thinks of limiting the amount of checks or other paper evidences of indebtedness in use in the mercantile community; but these are all based on values, and although taking the place of *currency*, they really represent *money*: the bank check made to-day and destroyed to-morrow does more work than all the government issues of notes, and with the return of activity to the channels of trade, we will not feel the scarcity of currency, for we have an abundance of it.

—The market for dividend paying stocks is quite active among the commission brokers. Investors generally seem willing to pay handsome premiums on such investments as yield seven to ten per cent. and are ready buyers of bank, insurance, and other stocks.

—The following dispatch has been published announcing an important bond decision:

"The supreme Court of the United States has given a decision in favor of George O. Marcy, of Boston, confirming the validity of $40,000 worth of Illinois registered town bonds, issued in aid of the Illinois Grand Trunk Railroad. The town attempted to avoid paying interest on the bonds, alleging that they were illegally issued. The basis of the court's decision was that no irregularity preceded to the issue, not even fraud on the part of the agents of the town, can vitiate the bonds in the hands of an innocent holder. The court applies the same rules to these bonds as are applied to commercial paper."

These bonds were issued by Ohio township, Bureau county; they are ten per cents, registered under the law of 1869. For 1871, $10,229 was charged the town on account of local bonds (which may have covered other issues also); $4,396 was allowed in abatements and commissions; $1,179 was collected and paid over to the State Treasurer; $2,919 was enjoined in hands of collectors; the item of abatements also included $4,886 enjoined from collection.

We learn that in 1872 the town sued on out injunction to resist the collection of taxes; that while this action was pending, he brought suit on the coupons in the United States Courts and obtained judgment on them with interest; that the town carried the case to Washington on a writ of error; and that the Supreme Court has now unanimously decided that bonds are unimpeachable in the hands of innocent holders. As soon as the decision can be procured from Washington we shall present the case more in detail.

—The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* says: "The report of the government directors for the Union Pacific shows that the company are selling their lands at an average of $4 50 per acre, leaving title to be obtained from the United States, because the government has stopped certifying lands to the company, in pursuance of an executive order to withhold one-half the lands not certified to the company, until they should begin to pay the interest on their subsidy bonds, and set aside five per cent. of their net earnings for payment of the principal of those bonds. But the company, though it has received all the subsidy to which it was entitled by law, still maintains that its road is not completed, so as to avoid the five per cent. sinking fund. It has accordingly become a mooted question here whether, in accordance with its conditions, the land grant has not lapsed, if the contention of the railroad company that their road is not completed be true."

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue.

January 20, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼
Western Union Tel.	55¼	55¼	55¼	55¼	55¼	55¼
Pacific Mail	42¾	42¾	42¾	42¾	42¾	42¾
Adams Express	—	93½	—	93½	—	93½
Wells-Fargo Express	—	69	—	68½	—	68½
American Express	—	54	—	54	—	54
United States Express	—	71	—	70½	—	70½
New York Central	103¼	103¼	103¼	103¼	103¼	103¼
Erie	49	49	49	48¾	48¾	48¾
Michigan Central	—	90	—	89½	—	89½
Michigan Southern	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾	80
Illinois Central	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	—	91	—	91	90¾	90¾
Chicago & Northwestern	81¼	81¼	81¼	81¼	81¼	81¼
Do Preferred	73	73	73¾	73¾	73	73
Rock Island	98	98	98	98	105¾	105¾
Fort Wayne	48	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾
Do Preferred	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾
Wabash	54	54	54	54	53¾	53¾
Fort Wayne	—	91¾	—	—	—	—
Ohio and Mississippi	34¾	34¾	34¾	—	34¾	34¾
Union Pacific	88	88	88	88	88¼	88¼
Chicago and Alton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlem	—	125	—	125	—	—

—The following are the quotations for government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. 6s 1881	116¾	116¾	116¾
1881, coupons	117¼	117¼	117¼
5-20s, 1865	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, 1864	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, 1865	116¼	116¼	116¼
5-20s, new	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, 1867	117	117¼	117¼
5-20s, 1868	116¾	117	117
10-40s	112¾	112¾	112¾
10-40s, coupons	113¼	113¼	113¼
Currency 6s	114¾	114¾	114¾
New 5s	112¾	112¾	112¾
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee	80		79¾
Tennessee, new	79¾		79¾
South Carolina, April	15		15
South Carolina, July	9¾		9¾
Missouri 6s	93		93

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	48
Penna. scrip	94¾
Reading	55¾
United Co.s N. J.	120½
Lehigh Valley	58¼
A. V. R. R. 7-20s	90
Oil Creek	16¾
Central Transportation	43
Empire Transportation, bls	50

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, January 20, 1874.

REMARKS—The weather is warm, with occasional showers of rain. The ice in the rivers is "thawing out," and in a short time navigation will be unmolested.

There is a good degree of improvement observable in all departments of trade, and we feel assured that it will continue to increase until the volume shall swell to figures beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

The market rules uniform in price so far as relates to the leading articles. Evanescent articles are in a great measure governed in prices by the demand and state of the weather.

The arrival of grain is on the increase at the elevator, but as yet there are no changes to note in prices, holders showing no disposition to lower prices in order to effect sales. The flour market is also firm, but a shade weaker. Choice butter is still in light supply. The receipts of eggs are in excess of the demand. Bacon and groceries are reported moderately active at unchanged prices.

The following table shows the receipts of leading articles during the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	2,351	Apples, bbls	104
Cheese, lbs	218	Corn, sks	454
Wheat, sks	850	Barley, sks	3,067
Rye, sks	158	Oats, sks	1,427
Butter, pkgs	24	Bacon, tierces	200
Potatoes, bush	291		

We omit our usual extended report to-day, to be resumed in our next issue.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, January 20, 1874.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week so far have been fair and in quality are all kinds and grades from good to very common. Reports from the East are conflicting regarding the state of trade, and the feeling is not very good. The attendance of buyers but fair. At this time there is nothing doing in the yards, not enough sales being made on which to base quotations, which are therefore withheld.

Hogs.

The run of hogs fair. The number of buyers in the yards about the same as usual; quality not quite so good as last week. Weather unfavorable for trade and prices from 5c to 10c ₱ 100 lbs lower. Market slow to-day, but prices moderately fair at about the following figures:

GRADES.	PRICES.
Extra Philadelphia, $5 90 to $5 95; prime Philadelphia, $5 80 to $5 85; good mixed, $5 75; Yorkers' mixed, $5 40 to $5 60.	

Sheep.

The run of sheep fair. Market composed of all kinds and grades. Demand quite so good as yesterday, but still moderately firm. This evening the market closed at about the following figures:

PRICES.
Extra 100 lbs fine wool, $6 00@6 10; extra 100 lbs coarse wool, $5 51 to $5 75; extra 95 lbs, fine wool, $5 75 to $5 85.

IRON MARKETS.

LOUISVILLE.

January 19.—In pig iron trade has been slow, but the market has had a fairly steady undertone, and prices are without quotable change. Iron manufactures have fared better, and it is reported that sales during the half of the month just expired exceed the total for December; the average being a rising one. Prices are quotably steady, with the exception of nails, some manufacturers of which are forcing the market and unsettling prices.

Pig Iron—We quote as follows:

Hanging Rock foundry	$41@42
Extra No 1	40@41
No 1 C C pig iron	34@35
No 2 foundry	32@33
No 3 gr mill	30@30
No 1 Tennessee foundry	38@39
No 2 do	32@34
No 3 do	31@33
No 1 stonecoal foundry Missouri red short	40@41
No 2 stonecoal foundry Missouri Red S	38@39
No 3 or Mill foundry Missouri Red S	30@31
C C car-wheel iron	65@
Ohio, Hecla	60@65
No 1 Red River cold blast	60@65
No 2 Red River and Cottage	60@61
Nos 3 and 4 Red River and Cottage	60@61
Nos 5 and 6 or white iron	60@61
C C Tennessee Car-wheel	55@58
No 1 Dover cold blast	56@58
No 2 Dover cold blast	56@58
White and mottled	56@58

Horse and Mule Shoes—We quote horse shoes at $6 75@7 25, and mule shoes at $7 75@8 25 per keg, standard brand.

Iron, Wrought—We quote the card rate as follows: Bars, $4 ½ to $3 00@3 90; C. C., $3 70@4 90; nail rod, Swedes, 9¾ @10c.

Nails—We quote: 10d nails, fence and brads at $4 10 in large lots and $4 50 on small sales—all other sizes in proportion.—Courier-Journal.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, January 20.—Flour unchanged, quiet and steady. Wheat quiet; Ohio and Indiana $1 60a1 75. Corn—Mixed western firmer at 56a56½c. Oats—Western steady. Rye firm at $1 00a1 02. Provisions in good jobbing demand, but nothing doing in large lots. Butter in good demand; western roll 30 @35c; tub 33a35c. Coffee unchanged. Whisky quiet and steady at $1 02@1 02.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, January 20.—Wheat quiet; white State $1 61. Corn dull at 90c. Oats quiet; State 53c. Barley higher; uplake Canada $1 16.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 21, 1874.

REMARKS—We have nothing of special importance to communicate to our readers in regard to oil. The demand at the wells is on the increase and a number of lots changed hands since our last. There has been no further decline in prices. Producers say that the next movement will be an upward one.

CRUDE.

We heard of no sales in this market. The following were reported at

PARKERS.

1,000 barrels United	$1 15@1 15½
1,000 barrels Union	1 12½
1,000 bbls United, at wells	88
1,000 bbls Union, at wells	97¾

For prices at other points see dispatches.

REFINED.

Prices in this market come to a stand still, having been quoted for some days at 11¾c free on cars at wells.

Philadelphia—Market quiet 12¾@13c; February 13¾@14c; March 14¼@14½c; April 14¾@15c.

New York—Steady; spot 13¾c; January 13¾c.

OIL BARRELS.

Market quiet with sale city $1 90; county $1 85.

TITUSVILLE, January 20.—The "Courier" says: The market was very firm with a prospect of a further advance; $1 37½ was the ruling figure on spot and next at the close. Sales:

1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	$1 25
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 37½
500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 37½
500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 37½
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 37½
1,000 bbls, lower road, spot	1 12½
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	93
500 bbls, Oil City, spot	1 32½
1,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells	95
1,000 bbls, Parkers, Union, at wells	97½
1,500 bbls, Parker's, United, spot	1 15
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, spot	1 22½

NEW YORK, January 20.—Closing 19.—The market is steady for early delivery, but there is very little inclination to sell futures at current prices; 2,000 bbls refined, January, sold at 13¾c; refined 13¾c for January; crude in bulk 6½c; cases 13¾a 19c; naphtha 12¾@8c; Philadelphia quiet; refined 13¾c.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20.—Market quiet; S. W. 13¾a13¾c; crude 5c, sales none; cases 18¾c; February 13¾c; March 14¾a14½c; April 14¾a14½c.

OIL CITY, January 21.—Market firm; $1 25a1 30.

ROUSEVILLE, January 20.—Market firm at $1 20a1 25.

TIDIOUTA, January 20.—Market a little firmer at $1 07½a1 10.

PETROLEUM CENTER, January 20.—Market strong at $1 19.

TITUSVILLE, January 20.—Market quiet and steady at $1 35.

PARKER'S, January 20.—Market at $1 15a1 25; quiet and firm.

Crude Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Jos. Bushnell	Standard O W	1,341
Stevenson	Radiant O W	9.65
Dutcon	Riverside O W	480
Fisher Bros	Penn O W	465
Stevenson	Penn O W	74
Jos Bushnell	National O W	462
Jos Bushnell	Model O W	620
Jos Bushnell	Keystone O W	456
Lockhart & Frew	Brilliant O W	1,574
Duncan	American O W	468

Crude Oil Received by Rail and River.

	Bbls.		Bbls.
Standard O W	1,341	Model O W	620
Hiland O W	928	Keystone O W	453
Riverside O W	480	Brilliant O W	1,574
Penn O W	541	American O W	468
National O W	463		
Total			6,565

Louisville Leaf Tobacco Market.

January 19.—The market during the week has ruled firm, and prices have been sustained at the advance noted last week. We note an increase in the receipts over any week this season, and the sales have been unusually large. The attendance of buyers from other places has been large, and all good conditioned lugs and leaf are in active demand. The offerings have been mostly of an inferior quality. About 150 hhds of old leaf were put on the breaks and brought very satisfactory prices. We revise our prices:

New—	
Trashy and light wts	$2 80@ 3 25
Common lugs, good wt	3 40@ 4 00
Good lugs	4 00@ 5 00
Common leaf	5 00@ 6 00
Good leaf	6 00@ 7 00
Fine bright (cutting)	9 00@11 00
No fine bright offered.	
Old—	
Lugs, common	$1 75@ 5 00
Lugs, good	5 00@ 6 50
Common leaf	6 00@ 7 00
Good	7 00@ 8 00
Fine	9 00@12 00

—Commercial.

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 111¾.

NEW YORK, January 20, 1874.

MONEY

was easier this afternoon than at any time since the panic began, and was offered freely at 4 per cent.

STERLING

firmer at 482¼@483 for sixty days, and 486@486¼ for sight.

GOLD

ranged at 111¾@111¾, closing at the highest figure. Carrying rates were 3a6. Clearings, $43,000,000. Treasury disbursements $358,000. Customs receipts $420,000. Produce exports for the week ending today $5,960,192.

GOVERNMENTS

closed firm.

U. S. coupons, 1881	117¼	5-20's, '67	117¼
5-20's, '65	115¾	5-20's, '68	117
5-20's, '64	115¾	New 5's	112¾
5-20's, '65	116¼	10-40's	113¼
5-20's, '65, new	115¾	Currency 6's	114¾

STATE BONDS

quiet and nominal.

Missouri	93	Virginia, old	41
Tennessee, old	79¾	North Carolina, old	23½
Tennessee, new	79¾	North Carolina, new	17
Virginia, new	49		

STOCKS

exceeding Lake Shore, were strong the greater portion of the day. The latter declined from 80¾ c to 79¾, but closed at 80. The principal activity was in Western Union, Pacific, Northwest, Pacific Mail, Wabash, and Lake Shore. Union Pacific reached 89¾; the struggle for the control in the coming meeting is going on in this stock, and "bulls" close in February. The general market closed steady and slightly below the highest figures of day. Sales between ten and two o'clock 100,000 shares, including 34,500 were Western Union, 26,800 Union Pacific, 5,700 Wabash, 15,000 Pacific Mail, 11,000 New York Central, 40,000 Lake Shore, 6,000 Northwestern.

Canton	70	N. J. Central	100
W. U. Tel. Co.	76½	Wabash	53¾
Quicksilver	29	Do Preferred	70
Adams Express Co.	93½	Ft. Wayne	91¾
Wells, Fargo & Co.	70	Terre Haute	30
American Express	60½	Do preferred	80
United States	79¾	Chicago & Alton	108
Pacific Mail	42¾	Do preferred	110
N. Y. Central	103¾	Ohio & Mississippi	34¾
Erie	49	Ohio, Ind. & Chi	71¾
Do preferred	78	Burlington & Quincy	105¾
Harlem	125	Lake Shore	80
Do preferred	128	Panama	315
Michigan Central	88¾	Illinois Central	99
Pittsburgh	93¾	Union Pacific	89¾
Northwest common	61	Central Pacific bonds	96¾
Do preferred	72¾	Union Pacific bonds	85¾
Rock Island	105¼	Milford & Ft. Wayne	7
St. Paul	48¾	Del. & Lack.	101
Do preferred	78	Bankers' bills	483¾

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, January 20, 1874.

FLOUR—Quiet and unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat dull and unsettled; No 1 spring $1 23; No 2, $1 21¾ cash, $1 23½ February, $1 25¾ March; No 3, $1 18. Corn active and prices advanced; No 2, 41¾c cash, 42c seller February, 43c March. Oats quiet; No. 1, 30c; barley quiet; No 3, $1 42; No 3, $1 22.

PROVISIONS—Pork active at $14 25 cash, $14 35 February, $14 50 March; shoulders 6½c; short rib middles 7½c. Lard steady with a moderate demand at 9c cash, 9½c March. Green meats—shoulders 5¾c; short rib middles 7½c, 10 pounds average, 8c.

DRESSED HOGS—Market dull at 6c 2a6 45.

WHISKY—Market steady at 96c.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, January 20.—Cotton quiet at 17¾c. Flour heavy and lower; superfine Western and State $5 30a6 00; common to good $6a6 90; white wheat extra $7 40a8. Whisky firmer at 99¾a$1. Wheat dull and lower; No 2 spring $1 67a1 69; No. 3, $1 61 at 64; Iowa spring $1 64a1 64. Rye quiet at $1 06a1 07. Barley $1 40. Malt quiet. Corn in fair demand; new western mixed afloat, 58a58c; old new in store, 92a93c. Oats heavy and lower at 60a61c. Coffee firm at 20a23c. Sugar dull at 7¾a7¾c. Rice and pelroleum unchanged. Pork firm at $15. Beef and cut meats unchanged; middles held higher; long and short clear 9¾c. Lard firmer at 9¾c. February 9 7-16c, March 9¾c, April 10c. Butter firm; western 25a35c. Turpentine firmer at 48a49c.

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, January 20.—Cattle—Receipts, including reported arrivals, 1,516; total for the week 4,234. Market slow, owners asking ¼a¾c advance on last week's closing prices, and buyers holding off for lower rates, with a larger attendance of eastern and country buyers.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts 5,000; total for the week 17,000. Market slow and strong at 10c decline on last week's closing prices; a large number of sheep on the market by rail which checks advance in prices and yards crowded.

Hogs—Receipts 1,700; total for the week 13,300 head, against 8,100 same time last week; Yorkers $5 as 50; heavy hogs $5 70a5 90.

Philadelphia Wool Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20.—Wool in good demand, firmer and scarce. Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia double extra and above 56a58c; extra 53a56c; medium 55a56c; coarse 50a52c. Combing, wash of 69¾a69c; combing unwashed 49a49½c; Canada combing 63a65c; fine unwashed 36a37½c; coarse and medium washed 36a38c; hub washed 52a53c.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, January 20.—Manufacturers' agents have been actively engaged in distributing staple cotton and woolen fabrics. The market for cotton goods steady, with an advancing tendency on bleached shirtings, paper cambrics, etc. Medium and white ground fancy prints more active in first hands. Worsted dress goods in good demand. Worsted coatings and fine 8-4 cassimeres selling freely.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 20.—Petroleum steady; crude 10a10½c; refined, 13½c. Flour quiet and firm; superfine $5a5 50; State, Indiana and Ohio extra family $7 50a8 25. Wheat quiet and steady; red $1 60a1 65; amber $1 75a1 81; white $1 85a1 90. Rye steady at 85a86c. Corn quiet; yellow, new, 78a82c. Oats unchanged. Whisky $1 01a1 02.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, January 20.—Cotton quiet at 14¾c. Flour steady; extra $5 25. Wheat quiet; amber $1 58a1 62. Corn quiet at 70c. Oats firm at 45a50c. Pork $15 50. Bulk shoulders 6¼a6½c; clear rib 7¾c; clear 8¼a8¾c. Bacon shoulders 7¼c; clear sides 8¾a9c. Lard 9¾a10¼c. Whisky easier at 94½ a96c.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, January 20.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat steady with a moderate demand; No 1 Milwaukee, $1 54¾; No 2, $1 32½. Oats steady with a moderate demand; No 2, 50¼c. Corn firm at 58¾c. Rye quiet; No 1, 76c. Barley—demand fair and market firm; No 3, $1 53.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, January 20.—Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat dull and declined; amber Michigan $1 47 seller January; No 2 red $1 43, seller February $1 50. Corn—demand fair and market firm; high mixed 56c, seller February 60¾c, seller April 70c; low mixed 54¾c. Oats dull and lower.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, January 20.—Cotton steady at 13¾a14¾c. Flour quiet at $6 50a6 60. Wheat $1 30a1 40. Corn firm at 61¾a70c. Oats 55a60c. Lard active at 10c. Bulk meats firm at 6¾a8¾a8½c. Whisky firm and lower at $1 01.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, January 20.—Hogs—Arrivals 5,700 head. Market unsettled in the morning with no sales of live weights before Change; dressed dull and lower, closing at $6 75a7 87 for city, and $6 75a7 25 for western.

Cleveland Market.

CLEVELAND, January 20.—Grain market steady and unchanged. Petroleum more active and unchanged.

WM. HOLMES.....: JAMES IRWIN

JAMES IRWIN & CO.

OIL OF VITRIOL, MURIATIC ACID, NITRIC ACID, ENGLISH CAUSTIC SODA, And AQUA AMMONIA.

Office—No. 15 Market Street, Pittsburgh.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK, 1874.

Russia	January 21	Liverpool.
Manhattan	January 21	Liverpool.
Macedonia	January 21	Liverpool.
Siesta	January 22	Hamburg.
Pereire	January 24	France.
Adriatic	January 24	Liverpool.
City of Brussels	January 24	Liverpool.
State of Virginia	January 24	Glasgow.
Elysia	January 24	Liverpool.
Greece	January 24	Liverpool.
Castalia	January 27	Liverpool.
Java	January 28	Liverpool.
Wyoming	January 28	Hamburg.
Frisia	January 29	Liverpool.
Celtic	January 31	Liverpool.
Anglia	January 31	Liverpool.

FROM BOSTON.

Marathon	January 24	Liverpool.
Lord Clive	January 25	Liverpool.
Parthia	January 31	Liverpool.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Ohio	January 22	Liverpool.
Neederland	January 23	Antwerp.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

OBSERVER'S OFFICE, SIGNAL SERVICE, U. S. A., PITTSBURGH, January 20, 1874.

The following is the daily report of the stage of water, with changes in the twenty-four hours ending 3 P. M.:

STATIONS.	ABOVE L'W'R'K.		CHANGE —ON—		DIRECT'N OF WIND.	STATE OF WEATHER
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.		
Cairo	30	0	—1	4	N. E.	Foggy.
Cincinnati	23	9	11	4	S. E.	Ut. rain.
Davesport	8	2	—9	4	S. E.	Threatg.
Keokuk	2	11	—5	4	S. E.	Cloudy.
Leavenworth	0	1	—0	3	S.	Cloudy.
Louisville	10	6	1	0	E.	Ut. rain.
Memphis	24	6	10	3	S. E.	Cloudy.
Nashville	15	8	—1	0	S. E.	Cloudy.
New Orleans	8	4	10	3	S. E.	Cloudy.
Pittsburgh	10	0	12	7	N. E.	Cloudy.
Shreveport	12	3	—6	6	S.	Cloudy.
St. Louis	4	8	10	6	S. E.	Cloudy.
Vicksburg	27	4	11	2	W.	Cloudy.

*Below high water mark.

DANIEL O'LEARY, Observer, Signal Service, U. S. A.

Greensboro.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GREENSBORO, PA., January 20, 1874.

River rising, with thirteen feet of water in the channel. Weather cloudy at 6 P. M.

Brownsville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROWNSVILLE, PA., January 20, 1874.

River rising, with fifteen and a half feet of water in the channel. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 44 degrees at 5 P. M.

Wheeling.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WHEELING, W. Va., January 20, 1874.

River eight feet nine inches and rising. Departed—Exchange, for Pittsburgh, 4 P. M.: Andes, for Cincinnati, 5 P. M. Raining slightly.

Oil City.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

OIL CITY, PA., January 20, 1874.

River four feet two inches and rising very slowly; only risen two inches since morning.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, January 20.—River twenty-four feet and rising. Arrived—Charmer, Evansville; expected Arrive—Hanna, Memphis. Departed—Minneola, Memphis; R. W. Skillinger, Pittsburgh. Light rain fell all day.

Cairo.

CAIRO, January 20.—Arrived—Arlington, Iron City. Departed—Arlington, Memphis. River fallen fifteen inches. Clear and warm. Mercury 45 degrees.

For Latest River Dispatches see Fourth Page.

RIVER NEWS.

THE marks last evening indicated ten feet, and rising steadily. There was a good deal of ice running in both rivers. Navigation is again resumed to most points.

WABASH river is frozen over.

THE Kanawha packets are all laid up on account of ice.

THERE will be plenty of water for coal boat purposes, the

THE Mississippi closed with ice at Quincy Saturday.

THE towboat I. N. Phillips is coming up with a tow of empty barges.

CAPTAIN D. MOORE did not go out on the Arlington on her last trip.

THE R. R. Hudson is laid up at Biennerhasset's island on account of ice.

THE R. W. Skillinger, Captain Russell, did not leave Cincinnati as first announced.

TWO BARGE loads of the Fannie Tatum's cotton arrived at Little Rock on Monday.

THE towboats Stella, Ella and Bengal Tiger left Cincinnati yesterday for this port.

JOHN GRAY, a Cincinnati and New Orleans pilot, died at Cincinnati on Monday night.

THE steamer Exporter, Captain Williams is en route from New Orleans to Cincinnati.

THE steamer R. W. Skillinger, Captain Russell, left Cincinnati last evening for this city.

THE mail packet Geneva, Captain Phillips, takes her departure for Brownsville and Geneva at 5 P. M.

THE punctual packet West Virginia, Captain P. Donaldson, leaves at 6 A. M. for Brownsville and Geneva.

THE steamer E. Bennett, Capt. Z. W. Carmack, takes her regular departure this day at 5 A. M. for Brownsville and Geneva.

LOUISVILLE.—The wharfage receipts at this port for the two weeks ending Saturday, the 17th inst., amounted to $1,564 75.

THE Laura Davis has been placed in the Nashville and St. Louis trade, and will in the future ply between these two points regularly.

THE fine sidewheel packet Juniata, Captain C. L. Brennan, is announced for Cincinnati positively. Passengers and shippers will make a good run of this.

MR. WM. COLBERT has gone back to steamboating, and yesterday took charge of the freight books of the Arlington in place of Sam. Baret, who went on the Mollie Ebert.

THE Mississippi has closed five times at Burlington this winter. The "Hawkeye" of Wednesday, expects it to open again right away, as the river is rising rapidly at various points above.

THE St. Louis "Times" story about the steamer Julia Chanteuse may do well enough for the old days; 1854 is rather early for Western steamboating. Just after the date—make it 1854—and it will read better.

THE Camelia will be sold by the Marshal at Louisville, on the 26th inst. Terms of sale one-third cash and the balance in two equal payments at three and six months, with approved security. Where is Capt. Tom Singer?

THE powerful towboat Ironsides and barges will positively leave for Cincinnati, Cairo, Memphis and N. w Orleans on Thursday at 12 M. She will receive freight this afternoon for Cincinnati, Louisville, Cairo, Memphis and New Orleans.

THE favorite steamer Messenger, Capt. M. A. Cox, takes her departure for Cincinnati, Louisville, Cairo and St. Louis. This boat has the best of accommodations, and is in charge of as clever officers as can be found. The first clerk is our old friend John C. Fisher.

THE wreck of the Mary Kingsland now lies near President's Island, two miles below Memphis, where, as the gunboat Jeff. Thompson is now being blown up in June, 1872. She was formerly an ocean vessel, which burned, and was converted into a towboat.

THE steamship Minnesota arrived out from New Orleans at Liverpool last Saturday in four days seventeen hours from the time she left the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi. This is nearly as quick as freight steamers from New York to Liverpool usually make the passage.

IN the fight between the Governor Allen and the La Belle, at Shreveport, the other day, both boats came out ahead, and so did the shippers, at "$12 per dozen" for cotton. Freight and passengers were about equally divided between the boats. Each boat received about 2,000 bales.

THE Vicksburg "Herald" says: "The Deercreek packet Phœnix is lying high and dry on the shore near the mouth of Rolling Fork, and it will take a rise of six or eight feet to let her off. She is propped up on logs without so much as a bucketful of water to six or seven feet of her."

THE towboat Etna sunk a barge of staves near Vancouburg, by striking a new snag or sawyer. The barge belonged to George W. Jackson, of Big Sandy, who will lose $500 to $600 by the accident. The obstruction is hidden in what has always been deep water during the low water season. Pilots are cautioned to look out for it.

THE Cincinnati "Gazette" says: The recent accident to the Sam. Clark has caused a very bitter feeling among river men at Pittsburgh, particularly those engaged in the coal trade, against the New-port bridge, and a memorial is being prepared asking Congress to take prompt action in the removal of this dangerous obstruction to navigation.

ST. LOUIS.—The Democrat says: Capt. Jo. Danley arrived from Chicago. Twenty bids were made for the Missouri and Illinois Packet Company's steamers, only eleven last year. The bids on the freight to Benton range from $2 to $5 per 100 pounds; last year $2 40 was the lowest bid. Com. Kountz and Com. Cochran each believes himself the successful bidder.

A NEW ORLEANS paper of the 16th says: "Business on the levee was better than could be expected. This, we believe, was owing to the cheap rates of freight which was inaugurated some days since. The Bismarck, for St. Louis, took out over one thousand tons of sugar and molasses; five hundred tons of the above amount was Louisiana sugar in boxes."

SUNDAY'S St. Louis "Times" on the situation: The weather was quite pleasant yesterday, and the prospects are good for a speedy resumption of navigation. The ferry-boats continue to cross. The shore ice on the Missouri side extends out nearly half way across the river, and several parties were prospecting yesterday with a view of putting up a lot of it. This ice is not very solid, but answers for business purposes. The river is closed at Commerce and several points between that and Cairo, but it is not known to the writer what the latest advices of freight is going forward by rail to Cairo and Belmont, for shipment South. The Merchants' Southern Packet Company is sending about 400 tons per day, as the following rates, to New Orleans: Flour 75 cents per barrel, and pound freight 40 cents per hundred.

Old Time Boating—Crime and Retribution on the Mississippi River.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The following account of the perpetration of a fiendish crime, and the speedy and fearful punishment of the guilty party, is written from memory, and, possibly I may be mistaken as to the time, but the main incidents are positively true. I think about thirty-five years ago the steamboat Pawnee, when on her way up the Mississippi river, had concluded quite a number of cabin passengers and a very large number of Germans on deck. Among the latter was a very pretty young girl who was deaf and dumb. She was a sweet, innocent-looking young creature, and had a smile for every one she met. These traits and her unfortunate condition made her a great favorite on the boat. A negro who was, I think, second steward, seemed to be very fond of her, and often got her pies and cakes and other delicacies from the cabin table. This kindness on his part gained her confidence. The storeroom of the boat was on the lower deck, and she was often seen at the door while he was inside attending to some of his duties.

On the day of the occurrence she went inside; he tried to force her into a compliance with his wishes, but failed. He then threatened her with a knife, and succeeded in outraging her person. When she came out her appearance gave evidence of the terrible suffering through which she had passed. A pleasant look was replaced by one of woe. She could scarcely climb over the shaft to the deck room. Her friends saw her distress and inquired what was the matter. After some hesitation—for he had threatened her if she made it known—she told in her own way how she had been abused.

It spread among them until it knew it. While they were violently discussing the occurrence and threatening vengeance, the news reached the cabin passengers and, as may be supposed, created the most intense excitement. There were men among them who were well posted in the laws which governed Judge Lynch's court. They held a brief but decided and earnest consultation, in which it was determined to execute a terrible vengeance on the culprit. Accordingly, he was dragged on from his hiding place, taken out on the guard, tied hand and foot and thrown in the river. The captain and crew of the boat were powerless. Though but a few men took any part in the execution, the contracted brows and compressed lips of those who were standing by indicated very plainly that they would permit no interference. Soon after the boat was hailed and the active men went ashore. When the boat reached St. Louis and the news sp

CITY MATTERS.

Ex-Judge Hampton.

John H. Hampton, Esq., who recently accompanied his father, the Hon. Moses Hampton, to Jacksonville, Florida, has returned after an absence of about three weeks. He states that the judge is delighted with the scenery and climate, and that he had already begun to feel the invigorating effects of the change. The trip by rail is a long and tiresome one, but is amply repaid (especially in the case of the invalid) by the transition from the rigors of a northern winter to the genial warmth of sunsmer. The judge will remain in Florida for some time, and his many friends will join in the hope that his health may be entirely restored.

The Next Grand Jury

The Grand Jurors for the March term of the Court of Quarter Sessions have been drawn. Following are the names:

Fred Kaiser, liquor merchant; Jno. Best, farmer; Morris Friel, hotel keeper; Samuel Barclay, grocer; Thomas McGowan, carpenter; B. R. McCleary, painter; Robert B. Dickey, farmer; John Nicholas, butcher; John C. Harper, farmer; John Kelcher, saloon keeper; Henry Branhoover, hotel keeper; Harvey S. Anderson, farmer; George Hazlett, farmer; Harvey Ferguson, farmer; Thomas Kerr, builder; Samuel McCune, gentleman; Thos. Gatewood, laborer; Amos Kelly, carpenter; John L. Rhodes, carpenter; Charles McKnight, editor; Samuel Neely, farmer; B. F. Peterson, clerk; Cornelius O'Donnell, alderman; Patrick Duffy, gentleman.

The Bank of Industry.

The Bank of Industry, No. 110 Fifth avenue, has won its way to great prosperity, although but recently established. This is due, in a great measure, to the efficiency of its officers, all of whom are well versed in the intricacies of finance. Mr. Joseph Ross is the President; Mr. James McLain, Vice President; and Mr. M. Hanrahan, Cashier. The latter gentleman is one of the very best cashiers in the city, and it is a pleasure to transact business with him. One of the special features in the business of this Bank is the provision in its charter empowering married women and minors to make deposits and check out moneys without fear of interference on the part of husbands or guardians. This enables women, whose life partners are shiftless or dissipated, to control their own earnings.

The Pittsburgh Church Guild.

This institution, which has been doing a noble and beneficent work for the past eight years, is about to organize a number of free classes for instruction in such subjects as may be deemed most important. As this is an age in which the sophistries of skeptics are boldly advanced, and the truths of the Christian religion openly assailed, it has been decided advantageous by the Guild to secure a series of lectures on the subject of "Christian Evidences." The first of the series will be delivered this (Wednesday) evening, by the Rev. H. W. Spaulding, D.D. These lectures will be continued every Wednesday evening, at the same hour, until further notice, and the public generally, especially the young men, are cordially invited to attend. The lectures will be delivered in the Reading Room of the Guild, Penn avenue, near Ninth street.

Thirty-Seventh Ward School Board.

The newly elected School Board of the Thirty-seventh ward, met for organization, on Monday evening, at the school house, in Wilkinsburg. All the members were present. The following officers were chosen:

President, Wm. H. Devore; Treasurer, Henry Lambert, President of the Odd Fellows' Bank; Secretary, Wm. F. Gardner, of the People's Savings Bank; representative to the Central Board, Wm. H. Devore. The members of the School Board are W. H. Devore, Wm. F. Ludwick, Luke B. Davison, Conrad Fix and John Fisher. These gentlemen were all elected in December last, except Mr. Davison, who, being a member of the the Wilkins township board, and a resident of the new ward by the recent addition of its territory into the city, holds over until the expiration of his term. The offices chosen are well qualified for a proper discharge of their duties, and the new board has been organized under very favorable auspices. The most important duty devolving upon them will be to furnish "adequate school facilities" for the children of the district, and this will involve the erection of a new building at no distant day.

Another Opinion as to the Municipal Election.

City Solicitor Rodgers, of Allegheny, has given an opinion to the Councils of that city, to the effect that the municipal elections must be held on the third Tuesday of February next, under the new Constitution. Mr. Rodgers reasons the point in this way:

"Had the Constitution provided that all the city elections should be held on the third Tuesday of October, for instance, no doubt could be entertained that the city election under it would be held on the third Tuesday of October, 1874. New to hold that, because the Constitution has fixed the city elections eight months earlier than they have been therefore, no election can be held in the city of Allegheny this year, is to contradict one of the plainest rules of construction. The uniformity, and to cause elections to be held or not, in the several districts throughout the state, according to the different times that might be entertained as to what does or does not constitute a proper time to elapse between the election and induction into office."

From the numerous legal opinions *pro* and *con*, it must be apparent that the only way out of the difficulty is to apply to the courts for an interpretation of the new instrument on the points in controversy.

Fifty Years Ago.

Comparatively few of the business men of this community are now living when Robert Knox first opened his confectionery establishment in 1824, now conducted by his successors, the well-known and popular firm, of Jacob B. Hubley & Co., 195 Penn avenue. During the lifetime of Mr. Knox, his late wife, Mary, familiarly known as "Aunt Polly," devoted her time and energies to building up the establishment, and for some time after his death she had an interest in the firm. She now resides in comfortable retirement, and is more than mother and aunt to the orphan children of her brother. Mr. Hubley for a number of years, previous to the death of Mr. Knox, was a member of the firm, doing business under the name of R. Knox & Co. Mr. Hay, like Mr. Hubley, has been identified with the house since his boyhood. From the outset the house has occupied a first-class standing in the trade and in financial circles, and the business has steadily grown until it has attained large proportions. Few houses can boast of such a bright record for half a century in business, and for solidity of character. Possessed of large resources and ample means to supply everything in the trade, the firm challenge competition. We invite attention to the announcement made elsewhere.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

No one for a moment thinks of analyzing the various constituent elements which go to make up the fragrance of a rose, whilst inhaling the perfume. The rarest delights are perhaps the most indefinable, and it is somewhat doubtful whether anybody, if asked, could exactly tell wherein the subtle secret of the charm of that *petite* universal favorite, Maggie Mitchell, consists. You feel her, as you feel the balminess of the spring air—and like the air, she eludes you when you undertake to fix her and fasten her. Somehow or other it seems as if unreen she deposits a certain mysterious aroma about you, and you go away all redolent of her atmosphere, the sweeter and better for having been brought into contact with her, and yet for the life of you cannot give any adequate explanation of how it all came to pass. Well: There are some things that were made for enjoyment, simply, not for disquisition, and the dramatic impersonations of Miss Mitchell are among the number. They are all healthy in the best sense; all of them have elements of true pathos as well as qualities of cheery mirth; all of them stir the finer and deeper emotions of our human nature, and all of them help to broaden the sphere of our sympathies and induct us into wider ranges of being. Her delineation of the sweet, simple, unaffected, but deep-hearted childwoman—*Marie*, in the lyric drama of the "Pearl of Savoy," last night, was no exception to the rule. There was the same hearty laughter among the audience, and the same thrilling at the heart, the same earnest hanging on the development of the plot, and—it is creditable to our human nature that it is so—eyes moistened with the same unbidden tears. Go and see her, by all means. And if you ask the reason, we say—for the same reason that you saunter into the woods in June, that you read again a beloved poem, or go twice to hear a singer sing the same sweet song, or are drawn again and again by the same work of art. Like these, she satisfies and provokes whilst ministering to the æsthetic sense, the unworldly quality in our nature, and like them, too, she will well repay repeated tasting, to coin a phrase. And when she is admirably supported, and the theater is a credit to our city. The play will keep the boards to-night. There was a very full house, and it will be packed all through the week.

Trimble's Varieties.

The crowd at this house last night was large. No complaint can be made against the entertainment offered, as it is in all respects first-class. There will be a matinee this afternoon, and the usual evening performance.

THE COKE TRADE.

Meeting of Manufacturers Yesterday—Expected Advance in Price of Coke.

The meeting of coke manufacturers, as announced yesterday, was held at the Central Hotel at 10 A. M. There was a large representation of the manufacturing firms whose establishments are located on the Mt. Pleasant branch of the Connellsville Railroad. Hon. J. R. Ewing, of Fayette county, was called to the chair, and J. F. Overholt, of Westmoreland county, was appointed Secretary.

The meeting was a private one, and no details of the discussion or action of the meeting are given to the press.

The Secretary simply reports that the President presented a plan for the consolidation of the general interest of the firms whose names have already been published. The plan was approved adopted, and accepted as an agreement to take effect March 1st.

It is believed that the price of coke must necessarily advance.

The firms interested are invited to meet at ...ch House, Connellsville on Friday the ... further consultation and action.

ALLEGHENY SCHOOLS.

Meeting of the Board of Control.

Interesting Reports—The Question of Back Pay—The Free Library.

The Board of School Controllers of Allgeheny held their closing session for the year yesterday evening, when the following business was transacted:

ELECTION OF TEACHER'S CONFIRMED.

Mr. Smith reported the election of Miss Isabella Heron and Miss M. Long, as teachers in the Third ward school.

The election of Miss Mary McKain and Miss Lizzie McElwayne in the Sixth ward, Miss Peet in the Ninth ward, Mrs. Brown in the primary schools of the Second ward, were also reported and confirmed.

Mr. Hobson presented the report of the Finance Committee, the most noticeable feature in which is the statement that sixteen per cent. of the delinquent taxes were lost. The report was accepted.

THE FREE LIBRARY.

Mr. Miller read the report of the Library Committee which showed the institution to be in a flourishing condition, in fact most too much so as great trouble has been experienced by the Librarian to supply the demand made upon him by the literary taste of Allegheny city. The number of books drawn from the library during the year 1873 was 27,584. There was purchased during last year 672 books and donations were donated besides a large number of pamphlets and light miscellany. The total number of books in the library is 5,180. The net contingent expenses during the past year were $1,010 98, and the total cost of the institution $2,311 96.

The committee urge the construction of a new building, with library, hall, lecture room, etc.

A number of resolutions accompanied the report, among which was the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Board are due to the proprietors of the following papers: *Gazette*, Commercial, *Dispatch*, *Post*, *Telegraph*, *Leader*, *Mail*, *Presbyterian Banner*, *United Presbyterian*, *Christian Advocate*, Pittsburgh *Advance* and *American Manufacturer*.

They urge the construction of a new building, with library, hall, lecture room, etc.

A resolution accompanying the report, increasing the donation to the library for the present year from $1,000 to $1,500, called forth some debate, but the report and accompanying resolutions were finally adopted.

Bills to the amount of $280 were approved and warrants ordered to be drawn for their payment. Some bills which which had reference to the expenditures for the Superintendent's office and the colored school in the Second ward, and which it was thought might be extravagant, were referred to the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform.

ABOUT BACK PAY.

Mr. Golden offered a resolution increasing the salary of Miss Georgie Day, teacher in school No. 2, in the Tenth ward, and giving her forty dollars back pay, in order to make her compensation equal to others doing the same work in other schools. The President *ruled the resolution* out of order, when Mr. Golden appealed from the decision of the chair. A vote was taken and the decision of the President sustained.

Mr. Smith moved to reconsider the matter laid on the table at their last meeting in relation to the pay of the teachers of the Ninth ward for two months, during which time they were prevented from teaching owing to the unfinished state of the building. Carried.

Mr. Benney moved the reference of the question to the Committee on Teachers and Salaries. In the discussion which followed a large part of the Board participated. Mr. Walton led off by saying that teachers as a class were better paid than most others who labored for a living. He held that they wanted to get rid of honestly earning their living, and if their aspiring blood were not checked they would soon require carriages furnished them to ride free to and from their homes to the school rooms, like the Pittsburgh Water Commission. Mr. Walton said that God first threw out the insinuation that if a man would not work he should not eat.

Alderman D. S. Smith thought Mr. Walton understood the management of the coal business better than the management of school marms, or the quoting of scripture. Dr. Hamilton contended that the city was both morally and legally bound to pay the teachers for the time, as they were led to expect that their terms would begin at the regular time. After the matter had been thoroughly ventilated, the question was put and carried, so the matter was referred accordingly.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The report of City Superintendent Davis was then presented. It contains a number of suggestions for the better government of the schools and closes with the following statistics: Number of enrolled pupils, 8,417; average attendance, 7,493; pupils not absent, 3,827; directors visits, 165, and 160 teachers, of which 2 are music and 5 writing teachers. The report was adopted.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered President King and Secretary Benney for the able manner in which they respectively met the duties devolving upon them during the year just closed.

Adjourned.

REMITTANCES BY MAIL.

Three Safe Ways of Sending Money.

With all the facilities afforded the people for transmitting money with absolute safety, people will persist in sending money in the shape of bank notes or greenbacks in letters.

Now, with all the chances to which a letter in the ordinary mill is exposed, it is inconceivable that a man would risk the loss of his money in that way, when there are three practically safe and secure ways of remitting it:

1st. By a bank draft, which if stolen is of no use to the thief, who will very seldom run the additional risk of a forgery and being identified. Such draft, however, can only be obtained in towns where a bank is established.

2. By a money order. This is absolutely safe, the government being responsible for the money. A money order, however, can only be obtained at money order offices, but their number is now so great that most small remittances can be made in this way.

3. By registered letter. This is also a perfectly safe method of sending money or valuables through the mails.

This fact we would like to impress upon every man, woman and child in the community, "Never send money in a letter in the ordinary way." If you do and if money is lost there is no redress for the sender.

Either buy a draft at the bank, or a money order at the postoffice, or have your letter containing money registered.

The Diamond Man Released.

M. C. Dixon, whom we reported yesterday as having been arrested under suspicious circumstances—selling and pawning diamonds of considerable value—was yesterday released from custody, whereupon he took the first train from the city. During the morning, in answer to dispatches sent by the Chief of Police at the request of the prisoner, a telegram was received from Washington signed by Mr. Lech, member of Congress from the Raleigh, North Carolina district, who says Dixon is one of his constituents, and is a man of property and character. Another dispatch was received from Hahn, Baer & Co., Nassau street, New York, vouching for his character, and stating that he bought a bill of diamonds from them amounting to $3,000.

A hearing was had before Alderman Butler, in the afternoon, but no proof against the character or operations of the prisoner could be adduced and he was, consequently, released, and his money was handed over to him by Clerk Hartzel. The arrest by the police was perfectly proper, and while they could bring no direct evidence against the man, the suspicions were very strong against him.

Committee Organizations.

Pittsburgh council committees organized yesterday as follows:

Committee on Appeals from City Assessments organized by electing John Harrison, Esq., chairman. Meetings of the committee are to be held at the call of the chairman.

The Committee on Ordinances elected Hill Burgwin, Esq., chairman, and decided to meet at such times as the chairman may call them together.

J. P. McCord, Esq., was elected chairman of the Committee on Claims and decided that the committee will meet at 7:30 o'clock P. M., on such days as they may be called together by the chairman.

This afternoon the committees on City Property, Wooden Buildings and Retrenchment and Reform also organize. Thursday afternoon the Monongahela wharf, the Bridge and the Survey committees hold meetings, and on Friday the Market committee is called for three o'clock at the South Side market-house.

Gas Explosion in Allegheny.

Considerable excitement was occasioned in Allegheny city yesterday morning by the explosion of gas in an alley off Robinson street, near Federal street. To add to the excitement the Fire Department was called out by an alarm from box 35, at the corner of Church avenue and Federal street, and for a time the confusion was complete. The gas, it seems, had escaped from the pipes into the sewer, and in some manner entirely unaccountable, had taken fire, which caused the explosion. The iron "man head" over the mouth of the sewer was shattered into a dozen pieces, while the concussion broke all the windows in the rear of Excelsior Hall, which runs back to the alley. The corner of another building was seriously shattered, but no other damage was done, and the fire was entirely out before the department reached the scene.

The Allegheny Parks.

The Allegheny Park Commission met yesterday evening and passed bills to the amount of $816 73.

The new member, Mr. Stroude, was placed on the sub-committee on grounds.

The question of reducing the Park police force, was referred to the Committee on Grounds.

Adjourned.

The City Elections.

We understand that the City Republican Executive Committees of Pittsburgh and Allegheny will be called to meet within a few days. The Pittsburgh committee will meet on Saturday next, when the question as to whether it is necessary and proper to hold primaries for an election next month will be considered. Before the day of meeting the Legislature may take such action as will settle the question.

AN EXPLANATION.

The Archbold-Wagner Controversy.

Mr. Wm. W. Wagner has sent us another letter, explanatory of the extract quoted from a letter addressed by him to Mr. George Archbold, and published in Friday's Commercial. In explanation of that extract, Mr. Wagner says:

"I offered myself to go and organize, but not to advance the work the miners were the trying to accomplish. I wished to oppose the extreme measures they were about resorting to. I said 'we must take a bold stand'—but what for? to prevent the strike that followed."

Mr. Wagner then goes on to say that in the conventions he opposed the measures that were adopted—the strike being one of them—and never understood that to "maintain the provisions of the bill" meant to maintain the schedule of prices and the forcing of a certain grade of coal upon the market. It was the separation and preparation of the coal that the operators objected to, and not to paying for it. He then quotes from a letter of Mr. Archbold, addressed to him personally, in which Mr. A. says:

"Under the circumstances I am almost at a loss to know what is best to be done. The men generally are very uneasy and dissatisfied. I think there ought to be a delegate convention as soon as possible. Write by return mail and let me have your views on the subject."

Mr. Wagner concludes as follows:

It is now an established fact that the strike was a foolish one. The miner did not gain anything; on the contrary, he lost; and yet the operator was crippled. As a rule, wherever coal cleaned into a raise has been mined together and thus loaded, it has been mined one cent less than that passing over the screen. Hence when the operator paid five cents "over the screen," he paid one cent each for the privilege of preparing his coal—his markets demanding such a preparation. The "schedule of prices," as adopted by the miners, was a virtual acknowledgment that five cents over the large screen was a fair price.

In many of the mines the average amount of nut coal in a run of six months has been about sixteen bushels; but suppose the miner gained twenty bushels by the use of the three-fourth inch screen, he would have one hundred and twenty bushels to be paid for at $3 50 per hundred, whereas over the large screen he only had one hundred bushels at five cents per bushel. This figures up a loss to the miner of eighty cents per hundred. It was for this we remained idle eleven weeks last summer. But the question may be asked, "If this be true, why did the operators not accept the terms?" Simply because the use of the three-fourth inch screen made a worse grade of coal, and hence he (the operator) could not send to the markets west as good an article as his western neighbors, and consequently could not compete with them; and as the loss of his market would be by far the greatest evil, he had to reject the terms offered. The miners are beginning to understand this question far better. There are far greater evils in some of the mines than the supposed nonpayment of nut coal, but *strife* between employer and employee will never eradicate them. Wm. W. Wagner.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.

On report of Register Marchand, recommending the discontinuance of the proceedings in bankruptcy against David Weamer, of Indiana county, upon the payment into the registry of the court of the amount of the claim of John Fisher, a creditor not joining in said petition, the same was confirmed and discontinuance upon the terms set forth was allowed.

Wm. Gardner, for the firm of Moyes & Gardner, of this city, debtors, and Wesley Wilson for himself, filed answers to the petition in bankruptcy of James McKibben, creditor, against the Keystone Bridge Co., upon which orders were made for jury trials at the next special or regular term at Pittsburgh.

On application of W. E. Schmertz & Co., of this city, creditors, an order was made restraining certain execution creditors of Lewis B. Anderson, debtor, from disposing of said debtor's property.

A similar order was granted against certain execution creditors of Jas. D. Logan, of Clinton county, bankrupt.

James Provost, of this city, having complied with all the requirements of the act, was discharged from bankruptcy.

Intervening libels in admiralty were allowed to be filed against the steam tug Baltic.

Common Pleas—Judges Stowe and Collier.

The case of Jacob Schefner vs. The Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway Company, was continued.

Wm. McKinney vs. John Huckenstein, K. Robb and P. Tucker. *Sci. fa.* on a mortgage. Verdict for plaintiff for $5,619 88.

Alexander Hughes filed a petition for the benefit of the insolvent law, and was discharged from jail.

Charles Beyer vs. Moritz Kraus. Action against an indorser on a promissory note. Verdict for the defendant.

Charles Beyer vs. L. Keifer. Action against the maker of the above note. Finish a non-suit.

Charles Beyer & Co., vs. Lorenz Schlhein. Action on a book account. Jury withdrawn and case settled.

R. B. Petty vs. Charles Deer and Margaret Deer. Action of ejectment. On trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Commonwealth for use vs. Herriott.
Malone vs. Malone.
Denniston vs. Palmer.
Liberty School District vs. Cunningham.
Hogan vs. Giles.
Robinson vs. Schoyers.
Reinehr vs. Schoyers.
Hershey & Co. vs. Willson.
Hubley, Adams & Co. vs. Federal Insurance Company.
Hope et al. vs. McElhaney et al.
Heil et al. vs. Reutzel.
Luster vs. Schoyers.
O'Hanlon vs. Allegheny Insurance Company.
Hum & Cook vs. Powers.
Cleis vs. Smith et al.
Hayne et al. vs. Riddle et al.

District Court—Judges Ewing and White.

The case of Downer et. al. vs. Brown, is still on trial before Judge White.

The Judge is out on the case of Duff vs. Wilson, tried before Judge Kirkpatrick.

George W. Canfield vs. Captain John Gilmore. Action to recover $1,000 of money paid on a bond of indemnity. On trial before Judge Ewing.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Sterrett.

Francis Kirtley plead guilty to the larceny of a silver sugar bowl, the property of James R. Reed.

J. J. Crawford was tried for embezzling the proceeds of a sewing machine, the property of Wm. Sumner & Co. Jury out.

Francis Kirtley plead guilty to the larceny of a copy of the Bible and a copy of "Anderson's Stories," the property of Messrs. Gildenervey & Ewey.

Gus. Cline was acquitted of a charge of obtaining $100 by false pretenses from Jacob Josephs.

In the case of Ignatius Kenick, charged with larceny, the jury is out.

Edward Reigert was arraigned on a charge of assault and battery, on oath of Wm. Brickel. On trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

C. McNamee, J. & T. Bacon, W. E. Long, Mary A. Grady, Frank Meyers (2), James Cunninghan, Chas. Stinson et al., Benjamin Baker, Albert Fleishman, Samuel Reynolds, Michael Renz, Celia Burns, Edward Jordan, Solomon Haynes, John A. Kohrsen, David Coffey, Jacob B. Sarver, Sam'l D. Faulkner (2), John Wilkinson (2), Thos. Montgomery, William Brickel, Emery E Steel, Samuel Reynolds, James Cravenor.

THE NOVEL ARBITRATION.

The Great St. Louis Bridge—Meeting of the Adjudicators and Counsel Yesterday.

The arbitrators and counsel in the dispute between the Keystone Bridge Company, of this city, and the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge Company, relative to a heavy claim for "extras" on the contract for the construction of the superstructure of the wonderful bridge over the Mississippi river at St. Louis, met yesterday as per announcement. The meeting was fixed to be held at the Monongahela House, but owing to the illness of Mr. James Park, that gentleman was unable to attend, and consequently his home in Allegheny was visited by his request.

The arbitrators are James Park, Esq., who is to be judge of the facts, and Hon. Stanley Matthews, of Cincinnati, who is to be judge of the points of law. Messrs. Shepley and Winchcock appeared as counsel for the St. Louis Company, and Sol Schoyer, Jr., Esq., for the Keystone. Messrs. Park and Matthews were sworn by Alderman Smith, and Mr. A. M. Martin was sworn as stenographer. The case was then adjourned until February 10th at 3 P. M., at the same place.

—In our report of the case yesterday it was printed that this bridge had already cost the original contractors, the St. Louis Company, one million dollars, when it should have been *ten* millions. The Keystone Company is simply sub contractors for the superstructure—but corporatively a small part of the work.

ROSS AND KENNEDY.

Hearing in the Second Case Postponed.

Yesterday Messrs. Ross and Kennedy were to have had a hearing on a charge of the larceny of two books—the "Bond Record" and "Ledger"—being the second charge of larceny preferred against them. They were also to have had a hearing on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the city, by the appropriation of these books, Messrs. Swoope and Marshall, counsel for the defendants, were both too ill to appear, and Messrs. Swartzwelder and Taylor, for the prosecution, although ready for trial, assented to a continuance, on account of the illness of the opposing counsel. A. A. Adams, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney, appeared by request of Mr. Swoope, and asked a postponement. Acting Mayor Butler then continued the hearing until Monday next.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

Coroner McCallin last evening held an inquest over the body of a man named Charles Fahey, whose lifeless, mangled body was found yesterday morning on the Pan Handle Railroad, about three-quarters of a mile from Hays Crossing, in Robinson township, where he had lived. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death while intoxicated. Deceased was an Irishman, forty-five years of age, and leaves a wife and seven children. He left his home about half-past six o'clock Sunday evening, and visited some neighbors. He was last seen at nine o'clock, when he was going home in a state of intoxication. The body was found, as stated, at about half-past six o'clock yesterday morning.

GRIER COMING.

He is now in Canada—His Brother Gone to Bring Him.

We reported yesterday that we had from pretty good authority the information that Robert J. Grier, the missing cashier of the late Nation Savings bank would positively return and deliver himself to the custody of the district attorney or Squire McMaster, providing he could do so without molestation from the police. The same day that this information was received the stockholders of the bank withdrew, by resolution, the reward of $5,000 offered for Grier's arrest. The attorney of Grier, John Barton, with some friends at once made arrangements, and Jas. Grier, a brother of the ex-cashier was ordered to bring the latter at once, and it is probable that the anxiously looked-for individual will be here by Saturday. Alderman McMasters states that Grier is in Canada, and has been there nearly all the time since his disappearance. He was within a day's travel of Pittsburgh at the time the negotiations for his return were first talked of. Some of the stockholders reported that they knew where "Bob" was and that they were going to arrest him. This getting to Grier's ears he concluded to change his base a little, and moved about three hundred miles further into Canada.

Alderman McMasters is to be notified when Grier starts for home, and is to meet him at a convenient point. It is not known by which line the Grier's will return, but it will be either by the lake and Pittsburgh or by the Allegheny Valley road.

THE CITY HOSPITAL SITE.

Trouble About the Purchase.

The sub-committee of the Finance Committee, appointed to confer with General J. K. Moorhead and Captain William Ward, owners of the property selected by the Board of Health for the proposed City Hospital, met yesterday at the Controller's office. The owners named were present. The committee desired to be relieved from the purchase, believing that the proposed site was obnoxious to the people, inaccessible, and that the price agreed upon excessive. Further they claim that the city is unable to pay the price, and consequently cannot be bound by the Board of Health. A member of the committee, however, asked the gentlemen whether they would take $10,000 as a forfeit and release the city from the bargain. They stated that they would not do so, and further said that they would not now take $20,000, at which price they had agreed to settle the day previous.

The sub-committee will, we are informed, report to the general committee adversely to the purchase of the property at all, and recommend a legal trial of the bargain with Messrs. Moorhead and Ward.

The Vacant Fire Commissionership.

On Monday next, Councils will elect a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of John H. Stewart, resigned. There are three candidates mentioned, so far—John Semple, Thos. Pender and John Larmer. Semple was a member of the Common Council last year from the Eleventh ward, and did very efficient work there. He is connected with Jones & Laughlins' mill, and is spoken of as a compliant and accommodating man, conscientious, pains-taking and energetic. Mr. Pender was formerly a member of Councils from the old Third ward, and is well posted on the duties. Larmer is a politician of the Twenty-fourth ward, and, we lieve, has "run with the machine."

Serious Accident.

Mr. John Ferguson, grocer, of Birmingham, yesterday fell through a hatchway in the warehouse of W. H. Graff & Co., Liberty street. He fell ten or twelve feet, and struck his head on one side of the flooring, receiving a severe cut, which knocked him senseless. It was ten minutes before he was restored to consciousness, when he found himself in the hands of Dr. Kerr, who had been called in. The physician thought it quite probable that some internal injury had been sustained, but could not at once tell to a certainty about it. Some slight bruises appear in the region of the collar-bone also.

The Board of Health.

On Monday next the Councils will elect three members of the Board of Health for the ensuing three years. The members whose time expires are Dr. Litle, Messrs. Gross, House and Fleming. All of these, we understand, are candidates for re-election, and in addition, Mr. George W. Backofen, the well-known bookseller and stationer, and resident of the Sixth ward, is a candidate.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

Coroner McCallin has a neat an office as is in the Court House. None of them are comfortable or healthy.

Louis Leukin has been held for court by Alderman Kreuter, on a charge of desertion preferred by his daughter.

Policeman James Dean has been held by Alderman Kreuter for a hearing on February 3d, on a charge of assault.

Stephen Bayard Lodge, A. Y. M., No. 526, will be consulted at Elizabeth, Pa., on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock, noon.

The inquest over the body of Patrick Gallagher was concluded yesterday evening, and a verdict of accidental death was rendered.

By order of the Court of Common Pleas, Alexander Hughes was yesterday morning discharged from jail, under the insolvent laws.

The sub-committee of the Police Committee, having in charge the matter of closing up the clothing account, failed to meet last evening for want of a quorum.

The city gas bill for the last six months amounted to $11,867 49, notwithstanding the fact that 1,000,000 feet of gas is charged and all over that is but seventy-five cents.

A business man of the city, yesterday, found an Allegheny Valley Railroad check in his pocket-book, which he deposited with Mayor's Clerk Hartzel. He has no idea how it came into his possession.

Early last evening, some scoundrel cut the reins attached to a horse belonging to Mr. James Brown, which had been left standing in front of his store on Wood street, and stole the rings attached to the same.

A few nights ago, two students of Bethany College—one named Wood, of Pittsburgh, and the other, Arrington, of Wheeling—were robbed at the Bethany House, of a considerable sum of money, two revolvers, and other articles.

On Monday night a boot and shoe store, No. 203 Fifth avenue, was broken into and robbed of a quantity of goods. There is no clue to the thieves, but it is believed that some young scamps, who loaf in the neighborhood, are the guilty parties.

The stockholders of the Germania Saving bank yesterday elected the following Board of Directors: C. Meyran, J. F. Havekote, Adam Reinemer, Joseph Abel, A. Steinmeyer, Joseph Morganstern, G. Schleiter, Charles F. Schwartz, John M. Kennedy.

Last evening, Drs. Gross, Gilmore, Arnholt and Snively, of the Pittsburgh Board of Health, accompanied by Health Officer Gray, departed for Washington to attend the meeting of the National Board of Health, which meets in that city to-day.

The stockholders of the Allegheny Trust Company, at a meeting yesterday, elected the following Directors: W. A. Reed, Joseph Myers, Joseph McNaughter, James M. Schimphill, O. H. F. Williams, Charles Maginn, J. F. Beilstein, Jacob Beckert and Wm. M. Herron.

The Finance Committee will shortly commence investigating the affairs of the Water Commission. They will inquire, we understand, into the contracts, estimates to contractors, the pipe inspection and laying of pipes, and in fact everything relating to the misapplied funds and mismanagement of the affairs of the Commission.

The Beaver *Argus and Radical* of to-day's issue says: "Rumor has it that certain responsible parties (heavy operators) by letter are at present negotiating for land in Rochester, whereon they propose to erect an extensive wagon manufactory. It is well known that Rochester possesses desirable inducements as a shipping point and manufacturing town, therefore we say let 'em come."

Almost a Murder in Luzerne County.

[From the Scranton Republican, 19th.]

Last Friday night, at half-past ten, a base attempt was made to murder Mr. Ambrose Brundage, of Olyphant, while he, with his two daughters and others were returning home from a musical convention at the new Baptist church, a quarter of a mile from his residence. The night was dark and cold, and he had proceeded half way home when two young men, apparently on the look-out for him, and no one else passing very near him, gave a signal to some accomplices, who rushed ferociously upon the unguarded, unarmed man with billies and threw his daughter, sustaining a gash in the hands of one of the villains pointed towards her father, shrieked out "they are going to shoot father!" and started to run, in which Mr. Brundage joined for the same reason. The assault built man, but the conspirators felled him upon his left knee at the first blow, cutting a deep gash in his head from which the blood ran freely upon the snow, as could be seen the next day, which stunned him for a moment. He screamed murder at the top of his voice, while the blows fell thick and fast over his head and shoulders. Three pistol shots were fired, without injury to any one. The continued screams of the attacked party and of Mrs. Brundage, who appeared at the door in frantic anxiety, alarmed the assailants, who disappeared as rapidly as they had come. Mr. Brundage escaped into his house, covered with cuts and blood, and yet his wounds were so slight that he resumed business the next afternoon. That he was the man for whom mischief was intended is evidenced in the fact that in the earlier part of the evening some person called at his residence to inquire of his whereabouts, Mr. B. is certain that he can recognize the two young men who first reconnoitered the grounds. Only the week before some persons attempted to burn his slaughter house.

A bank, conducted on a novel system, has recently been established in London, known as the "Check Bank." Persons may deposit various sums in the bank, for instance, fifty dollars, with an addition of twenty-five cents as a fee. In return they receive a packet of checks, each for five dollars, ten dollars or larger sums, as they desire, the checks issued being equal to the amount deposited. These checks are readily taken in payment, and are found very handy for the transmission of small sums by mail. No references are needed in opening an account with the bank, and it is impossible to overdraw, because the checks issued are only for the amount of the deposit, nor can they be drawn for a larger or smaller amount than that for which they are stamped.

OHIO FINANCES.

Report of the State Auditor—Debt of the State—Taxable Valuations of Property—Local Taxation—A Better System Needed.

[From the Ohio State Journal.]

The report of the last fiscal year of State Auditor Williams is a well arranged, comprehensive and important document. Its exhibit of the public debt and general finances of the State, of which a synopsis was embraced in the message of Governor Noyes, is clearly and succinctly made. Among its leading facts are these: Total funded debt, $8,211,062 10. Reduction of the debt the past year, $372,484 27. Receipts from all sources during the year, including balances, $6,814,317 50. Disbursements for the same period, $6,684,731 08. Total taxes on the grand duplicate for local purposes, $20,653,493 66; total for State purposes, $5,477,859 24. Grand total of taxes for all purposes, including delinquencies, $26,474,459 98. Total taxable valuations of property on the duplicate in 1872, $1,524,323,148; in 1873, $1,567,274,639; increase during the year, mostly in personal property, nearly $43,000,000. The taxable valuation of property not in cities and towns has decreased during the year, $613,013. This apparent depreciation is attributed by Mr. Williams to the incorporation of lands into cities and villages by additions, and the apparent increase, he believes, is also largely due to the increased efficiency of county auditors and assessors in seeking out property for taxation. There can be no doubt, however, that there has been a large actual increase of property in the State during the year.

A new feature of the report is a tabulated statement of the debts of counties, townships, cities, villages and separate school districts, showing the aggregate amount of such debts to be $20,033,123 32, an increase over last year of $2,442,575 35. The net debts of cities, including that of Cincinnati, amounts to $18,695 05, or seventy-five per cent. of the local indebtedness of the State. Of this amount the debts of Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo aggregate $10,275,940 29, or sixty-seven per cent. of all the debts of cities.

On the subject of local taxation, the Auditor observes that "notwithstanding the increase of sixteenths of a mill on the dollar for the current year, the State's proportion of the aggregate tax is only one-fifth. The truth about the matter is that the load of taxation is local; eighty per cent. of the whole tax, in addition to the special taxes not upon the duplicate, is purely local." Mr. Williams adds that "it is no unusual thing for the country town or village to level the largest cities in the State in the rate of the tax levy; for example, in the village of St. Mary's, Auglaize county, "the rate is higher than in either Cincinnati, Cleveland or Columbus, and the State tax is only about one-eighth of the amount paid in said town."

These observations, together with the figures above given, furnish sufficient proof that the one great financial need of the State is some better system and more effective restraint in the levy of taxes. The trouble with the present arrangement appears to be a want of proper responsibility and information. The General Assembly usually granting whatever local levies are asked for, on mere request, without a particle of investigation as to their usefulness or necessity. This crying evil of special legislation has been swept away in Pennsylvania by the new Constitution of that State, and it is high time we were rid of it in Ohio. The practice of the General Assembly in the matter of local taxation is to fix its maximum limit, all further power over the subject being relegated as directly as possible to those who foot the bills.

Another new feature of the report is a summary of all the grand duplicates from 1800 to 1873, inclusive, together with a statement of the rates of taxation for all property on the duplicates of each city, village, township, and special school district of the State. If we might suggest any addition to the already excellent exhibit of the State finances, it would be the extension of this summary so as to include a tabulation showing the aggregate State debt and rate of State taxation for each year during the same period. We might see at a glance the fluctuations in the rate of taxation and amount of the debt since the organization of the State, without hunting for it through a long series of reports, as is now necessary.

SAD FATE.

An Abandoned Woman Burned to Death at Uhrichsville, O., While Drunk.

[From the Tuscarawas (O.) Chronicle.]

On Monday night last, 12th inst., a widow woman named Violet Frazier was burned to death at her residence on East First street, Uhrichsville. She appears to have been an abandoned woman, and the testimony shows that she was in a beastly state of intoxication at the time of the occurrence. There was no one in the room except three small children of the deceased, who were in bed asleep, but circumstantial evidence goes to show that the woman was attempting to fill a lamp with oil before the fire, and spilled the oil over her clothes, completely saturating them. Subsequently her clothes caught fire from the grate, and how she came to die from the effects of liquor, she was unable to help herself—probably never conscious of her condition and danger. Persons living in the neighborhood, hearing the screams of children and of Mrs. Brundage, who appeared at the door in frantic anxiety, alarmed the assailants, who disappeared as rapidly as they had come. Mr. Brundage escaped into his house, covered with cuts and blood, and yet his wounds were so slight that he resumed business the next afternoon. That he was the man for whom mischief was intended is evidenced in the fact that in the earlier part of the evening some person called at his residence to inquire of his whereabouts, Mr. B. is certain that he can recognize the two young men who first reconnoitered the